

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021



Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to you to raise awareness around personal safety during the summer holidays. We have previously had a number of school aged children being the victim of Robbery within the Hillingdon area. This was mainly around West Drayton and Uxbridge Town Centre. We do not believe that school children are being targeted specifically, however they do make up a notable proportion of victims.

As your child/children approach the summer holidays it's worth reminding them of crime prevention advice that can help keep them safe.

- **Be aware of your surroundings when out and avoid using your mobile phone in public or having valuables on display.**
- **Smart phones in particular are attractive to thieves – a more basic mobile phone will enable you to stay in touch but be less of a target. Register your mobile at [immobilise.com](http://immobilise.com) to help police recover it if it's ever stolen.**
- **Earpods or headphones can make you more vulnerable as you are less aware of your surroundings.**
- **Consider turning on the GPS on your phone when out and about, this can also be helpful to officers when attempting to locate stolen phones.**
- **Having conversations about the safest route home, avoiding shortcuts, is a good idea.**
- **Don't confront a thief – it's not worth risking your own safety for possessions that can be replaced.**

Robbery is a serious crime that needs to be reported, this includes any attempts to rob people of their property. If you or your child see a robbery taking place then police should be called on 999 for an emergency response, this will help provide the best chances of suspects being caught. It can also be reported to police after the event on 101 or at [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk).

Please be assured we are focusing on the area along with other robbery hotspots across the borough with extra police patrols and work is going on in the background to identify and arrest offenders involved. Our end of term policing plan Operation Aegius will also be in place to support schools across the West Area as they break up for the summer holidays.

If you have any information to share with us then we would be most grateful to hear from you, our communities are always our best form of intelligence. Information can be passed via the Safer Schools Team, anonymously using [www.Crimestoppers-UK.org](http://www.Crimestoppers-UK.org) or the youth version [www.Fearless.org](http://www.Fearless.org). If there is anything urgent then 101 or 999 is always the best option.

If you would like any further information then please do not hesitate to get in touch with your local Safer Schools Team who would be happy to help.

Thank you for helping us keep young people safe.

Yours Sincerely

S Allyson Keith

Hillingdon Safer Schools  
West Area BCU