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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you to make you aware of an incident that occurred in the local area earlier this week which has been shared by Nottinghamshire Police. A police statement has been released sharing the following information:

Police are investigating and carrying out patrols after reports a man used his phone to take photos up schoolgirls' skirts. It was reported a man followed a girl and tried to take photos from under her skin while she was unaware. He walked away from a member of the public shouted out. The incident happened in Augustine Gardens, Bestwood, at around 8.45am on Monday (18<sup>th</sup> March 2024)... The suspect is described as Black, around 5ft 8ins to 6ft tall, of slim to medium build and aged in his late 20s, and had a neat well-kept beard. He was wearing a black baseball cap and back pack.

Police are currently linking this incident to a similar report of a man who took a photo up another schoolgirls' skirt as she was walking along an alleyway, between Pennine Close and Sidlaw Rise, at around 3.10pm on Friday (15<sup>th</sup> March 2024).

As a result of the incidents, it is extremely important for parents and carers to be extra vigilant in regards to the supervision of children outside of school. We have written to parents and carers in some classes in recent weeks regarding supervision, due to the number of children who are playing in the park both before and after school, unsupervised. We **strongly** recommend that this is not happen unless the children supervised by an adult, to ensure their safety at the start and end of the school day. Where possible, we also recommend that children are accompanied to and from school by a trusted adult. We appreciate that this may not be possible for all parents and carers due to work commitment, but we are advising that you speak to other families who may be able to support in accompanying your child to get to school safely.

We are also speaking for parents and carers to;

- Speak to your children about how they keep safe in the local area.
- If your child walks to and/or from school on their own, speaking to them about walking directly to the destination and setting a time for your child to be home, as well as using busy, well-lit roads, and avoiding alley ways around school.
- If your child carries a mobile phone when walking to and from school, that they understand how to contact emergency services, in the event of an emergency, or the event they feel unsafe.
- Support your child in knowing the local area and where 'safe spaces' they can go to can be found. This may be a friend's house or a neighbour.
- If you have any concerns regarding safety outside of school, that the police are contacted directly to report your concerns.
- Report any concerns that you or your child have to school.

We have also attached a useful parent guide to this letter that can be used as a prompt to speak to your child about. If you have any concerns, please speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Salam

Head of School





## Back To School -Child Safety Tips

You can't always be near your child. How do you make sure they are safe? Teach your children:

STRANGER

#### 01 What do you mean by strangers?

'Pretty' strangers can be as dangerous as scary-looking strangers.

#### Bossible dangerous situations, eg:



A stranger claims to be a friend of your parents and offers you a ride home from school.

> Children should not approach or follow strangers



A nice looking stranger approaches you and asks for help/directions.

> Good grownups don't ask kids for help. They go to other adults for assistance

# 02 Who can they go to when they need help?

DANGER





Polic

Policemen

Neighbours

### 04 What to teach your child:

Always be accompanied by someone they can trust.

Know the home address and mummy's and daddy's phone numbers.

Scream or shout "NO" when they are in a dangerous situation.

Talk with mummy/daddy about their day and not keep secrets from them.