

SAFEGUARDING

2022/2023 NEWSLETTER #10

MALTBY ACADEMY

Water Safety

Water may look safe, but it can be dangerous. You may swim well in a warm indoor pool, but that does not mean that you will be able to swim in cold water.

The dangers of water include:

- It is very cold.
- there may be hidden currents.
- It can be difficult to get out (steep slimy banks).
- It can be deep.
- There may be hidden rubbish, e.g. shopping trolleys, broken glass.
- There are no lifeguards.
- It is difficult to estimate depth.
- It may be polluted and may make you ill.

**Stay safe.
Stay out of
the water.**

Cold water shock
can seriously affect
your breathing and
movement.



As the summer holidays fast approach, we are reminding people of the water safety advice, and a request for people to please not go swimming in open water, however tempting it may be.

There are hidden dangers including cold water shock. If you find yourself unexpectedly in cold water:

Take a minute, don't try to swim straight away, relax and float to catch your breath and keep calm.

Ask someone to call for help and dial 999.

Where a throw line is available, use it. Phone 999, and they will provide details of how to unlock and use it.

Action taken by Rotherham Council and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and partners:

A physical barrier has been installed on the bridge to prevent people from jumping into Ulley reservoir.

Parking restrictions have been introduced on the bridge. A new throw line and reach pole installed near the bridge at Ulley.

A new flagpole will aid visibility.

The lifesaving equipment is checked several times each week by rangers and maintained.

A maintenance schedule is in place for vegetation near the lifesaving equipment. Directional signage will be installed.

A review of warning signage across all open water locations owned by the Council has taken place, with damaged signage replaced.

Engagement activity around open water spaces has taken place.

Significant work has been undertaken between South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, South Yorkshire Police Fire Service, and the Council's Children's Services to develop our approach to education.

Lifewise events have been taken place with Year 6 students.

The Police Regional Marine Specialist unit at Hull/Humberside is to undertake specialised work within schools with boat activity days on open water. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and the Royal Life Saving Society have trained businesses who are close to an open body of water on how to use throwline equipment.

Police and the Council's Children and Young People's teams have carried out direct engagement sessions with young people in the area.

01709 812864

info@maltbyacademy.com

www.maltbyacademy.com



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