



*Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School & Nursery*  
Headteacher Mr C Beazeley  
Windermere Road, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 2RF  
Phone: 01702 414200  
Email: [office@sacredheart.southend.sch.uk](mailto:office@sacredheart.southend.sch.uk)



10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

### **'Stranger Danger'**

Schools occasionally receive reports about 'Stranger Danger'. This is where suspicious behaviour by a member of the public is reported to us by students, parents/carers or staff. When we receive these reports, we inform the Police, the Local Authority and our students and staff, so that they can remain vigilant. The Local Authority also inform the school about incidents reported by other schools.

Today we were informed of an incident which occurred before school this morning. One of the female students of Southchurch High has reported that, before school at approximately 8.05 am, she was approached by a man who asked her if he could walk her to school. He was between 18 and 20 years of age. The man also asked for her name and number. The man was dressed in dark clothes, black joggers, a dark grey top and a beanie hat. This happened on Victoria Road at the junction of Ambleside Drive. This matter has been reported to the Police who have taken this seriously and are looking at CCTV and ring doorbell footage.

**If your child walks this route, or the routes nearby, please ensure that they are aware of this incident. Ask them if they have been approached and if they have, please ask them to report this to us or the police.**

Whenever we have a '*Stranger Danger*' incident, we give reminders to students about remaining safe when walking to and from school. Today, I have spoken with Year 6 and the Year 5 pupils who are in school. We are also giving you the following message to share with your children:

***'We would like to remind you of the importance of being careful when you are out. If you walk to and from school, try to walk with friends in a group and never go anywhere with someone you don't know.'***

Parents may also choose to ask their child to consider some of these points:

- Try to avoid walking/cycling alone – especially after dark.
- Be aware of people around you.
- Stay to well-lit roads or main paths.
- If you feel uncomfortable and you are able to, go to the home of a friend, if nearby, and ask for help or to a local shop and tell them you are worried.
- Do not be tricked into invitations to accompany someone you do not know, sit in someone's car or go to their house. Seek help immediately if anyone does this.

*Headteacher: Mr C Beazeley*  
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Southend-on-Sea



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- If someone did try to grab you, it is ok to break all the rules of politeness to others eg scream, kick, punch, bite etc to draw attention and alert others to the fact that you are in danger. You are allowed to defend yourself under Common Law.
- Please also remember that sometimes a stranger can be the only person who can help us and is a far safer option than not talking to anyone; if you feel uncomfortable in any situation, go to the nearest public building, for example a shop or a public place.
- You can record someone on your phone if you feel as though you are in danger.
- Whilst it is important, we remain vigilant it is equally important to remember that not ALL strangers are "bad".
- If you are approached by any stranger, male or female, in these circumstances, you must telephone 999 immediately. Then call your parents/carers or an adult.

The school will inform parents/carers of any future incidents.

Yours sincerely

Mr Beazeley