



Bedfordshire

Fire & Rescue Service

 bedsfire.gov.uk
 Southfields Road
Kempston, Bedford
MK42 7NR
 bedsfirealert.co.uk
   @bedsfire

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important Water Safety Message – Please Read

As the summer holidays approach and the weather becomes warmer, we want to share some vital information about **water safety**. Many young people enjoy spending time near rivers, lakes, and other open water, but these environments can be very dangerous—even for strong swimmers.

This message is supported by **Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service** and local partners, including the **Police**, **East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST)**, and **Local Authorities**, who often respond to water-related incidents during the summer.

Open Water areas may look inviting but hide serious hazards such as:

- **Cold Water Shock** – sudden immersion in cold water can cause panic and breathing difficulties
- **Hidden Dangers** – weeds, rubbish, currents, and sudden changes in water depth
- **Risk of Injury** – from jumping or diving into unknown water

World Drowning Prevention Day – 25th July & Find Your Float Campaign

On **25th July, World Drowning Prevention Day** raises awareness about how to stay safe in water. This year's campaign, **Find Your Float**, highlights an important life-saving skill:

“If you get into trouble in the water, knowing how to float can save your life. But we all float differently. By practising how to float in a safe and supported environment, you can learn what floating looks and feels like for you, helping you to be better prepared for an emergency situation.”

We encourage families to explore this campaign with their children, helping them to understand and practise floating techniques in safe places such as swimming pools.

You can find more information about water safety and the Find Your Float campaign on the **Respect The Water** website: www.respectthewater.com and on the **Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service** website: www.bedsfire.gov.uk.

Emergency Advice

If someone is in trouble in the water:

- **Do not enter the water yourself**
- **Call 999** and ask for: **FIRE SERVICE** for inland water emergencies
- **Call 999** and ask for: **COASTGUARD** for coastal incidents
- Use available lifesaving equipment such as throwlines, lifebelts, or branches
- Encourage the person to **float on their back** and stay calm until help arrives

Please talk to your young people about these important safety tips to help ensure a safe and enjoyable summer.

Kind Regards

Stacey Moore
Community Safety Officer





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