



Tomlinscote School

19 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been made aware of an incident which happened to one of our students on the way to school yesterday morning. This involved an interaction with an adult male and a female student which has been reported to the police.

Please encourage your children to walk in pairs or more and if any incident occurs to report it straight away either to school or home whichever they are closest to. Please remind them of the following:

If they walk to and from school, try to walk with friends in a group and never go anywhere with someone they don't know. Remember:

- 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.
- If someone did try to grab you, it is ok to break all the rules of politeness to others e.g. scream, kick, punch, etc to draw attention and alert others to the fact that you are in danger.
- 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. Whilst it is important we remain vigilant it is equally important to remember that not ALL strangers are "bad".
- Tell an adult straight away if you have any concerns.

If your child comes home and reports any suspicious behaviour of a stranger, please report it to the police and let the school know.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Major
Principal