



Autumn Halloween and Firework Season - School Briefing Sheet

Merseyside Police, together with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and local councils, is working to promote firework safety and reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour over the autumn period.

With your support we can reduce the problems associated with this time of year by ensuring young people between the ages of 11-16 years are aware of the problems associated with, and the consequences of, such behaviour.

Please could you remind your pupils of the following important messages during assemblies, class registrations and/or through citizenship lessons?

Think about how your actions can affect others

- Tricks that you play on people can be very frightening and can have serious consequences.
- Some people feel that they have been targeted personally and may not leave their homes for weeks after a so-called 'trick' has been played on them.
- Be aware of your actions. This time of year can be very frightening for the elderly and very young and can cause distress or lead to illness. If you have elderly relatives think about how you would feel if they felt frightened or intimidated by a so-called 'trick'.
- Local retailers are also offering their support by not selling certain household items to young people over this period e.g. flour, eggs, etc.

The police may arrest those responsible for ASB and criminal damage

- Some 'tricks' that you play on people could cause damage to homes and property. If this is the case, you may have committed a criminal offence and could be arrested and prosecuted.
- Throwing missiles at houses, vehicles and people is an offence. If you are caught or reported to the police you could be arrested and receive a £60 fine or a criminal record.
- If you are fined, even if you don't have any money, your parents or guardian will have to pay the fine for you.

Please note: Merseyside Police is aware that the majority of young people's behaviour is acceptable throughout Merseyside and it is only the actions of a small minority that causes upset within the community.

Fireworks can be dangerous

- Fireworks are explosives and they are dangerous – some burn at 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit!
- If you are under 16 and found in possession of a firework, including bangers, you can be arrested and fined £60. This includes carrying fireworks in your pockets.
- You can also be arrested if you:
 - throw or light a firework in the street
 - make a bonfire in the street
 - cause injury or endanger others with a firework

Remember it is safer to go to an organised firework display. There are lots of great activities and events happening right across Merseyside that you can get involved in at this time of year.

You can find out what's going on in your area by visiting your local council's website. Schools are encouraged to share our crime prevention messages, which are available on our Merseyside Police social media accounts, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Do have fun with your friends but please enjoy this period safely and always respect others.

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