



Archdiocese of Birmingham
St. Mary's Catholic Academy
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Drowning Prevention Week
13th – 20th June 2026

Dear Parents / Guardians

We would like to make you aware that Drowning Prevention Week 2026 takes place from 13–20 June 2026, led by the Royal Life Saving Society UK. This annual campaign aims to raise awareness of water safety and helps children develop the knowledge and skills needed to stay safe around water.

As we approach the warmer months, many families will spend more time near rivers, lakes, canals, beaches, swimming pools, and other water environments. While water-based activities can be enjoyable and beneficial, it is important that children understand the risks and know how to respond safely in and around water.

Why Water Safety Matters

Drowning can happen quickly and often without warning. Children of primary school age are naturally curious and may not always recognise potential dangers near water. Teaching water safety from an early age can help children:

- Recognise hazards in different water environments
- Make safe choices when playing near water
- Understand the importance of adult supervision
- Know what to do if they or someone else gets into difficulty
- Build confidence and competence around water
- Key water safety messages for children

During Drowning Prevention Week, children will be learning and discussing important safety messages, including:

- Always swim in a designated, safe, supervised location
- Never enter water without an adult's permission

- Stay away from the edges of rivers, canals, ponds, and reservoirs
- Wear appropriate safety equipment when participating in water activities
- If you see someone in trouble in the water, tell an adult or call for help. Do not enter the water yourself.
- Remember the lifesaving advice: "Float to Live" if you unexpectedly find yourself in deep water.

How Families Can Help

Parents and carers play a vital role in reinforcing water safety messages. You can support your child by:

- Talking about water safety at home
- Supervising children closely around water at all times
- Encouraging swimming lessons where possible
- Discussing what to do in an emergency
- Modelling safe behaviour around water
- Working together

By raising awareness and teaching practical water safety skills, we can help children enjoy water safely and reduce the risk of accidents. We encourage all families to take a few moments during Drowning Prevention Week to discuss these important messages with their children.

Thank you for your continued support in helping keep our children safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Statham

Head of School



St Gabriel
the Archangel
Catholic Multi-Academy Trust