



Welcome to this week's SMRT Safeguarding Update...

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

This edition includes information on staying safe during Halloween and bonfire night, and important information from the Local Authority Safeguarding in Education Team.

Community safety during Halloween

If you are celebrating Halloween this year, we hope you have a good time, but stay safe. Please be mindful and respectful that not everyone in your community will be taking part and Halloween can be scary for people who are elderly, vulnerable or live alone

There are lots of things you can do to help your neighbours feel safe:

- Start by just saying 'hello.'
- Ask if they would like you to check if they are ok on Halloween with either a visit or a call.
- Ask if they would like you to download and print on of our 'sorry, no trick or treaters here' posters so they can display it in their window
 - [Poster 1](#)
 - [Poster 2](#)
- Let neighbours know if you're planning a party, so they won't be alarmed.
- Remind children to respect others' property and not to call on homes that have the 'sorry, no trick or treaters here' poster.

Parents also might want to talk to their children about our safety advice for trick or treaters:

- Always go trick or treating with an adult.
- Only go to houses where you or your friends know the residents.
- Don't knock on doors where there is a sign saying 'no trick or treat here'.
- Stay in areas that are lit with streetlights and take a torch with you just in case.
- Stay with your friends – don't split into smaller groups unless an adult goes with you.
- Throwing eggs and flour at houses amounts to criminal damage.
- Don't talk to strangers on the street and never enter any house, just stay on the doorstep.
- Although Halloween is supposed to be spooky, be considerate to those who don't take part and be careful not frighten vulnerable people.
- Remember road safety, always look carefully before crossing the road and be visible.

Report a crime or incident via 101 or [online](#). In an emergency, call 999.

In light of the ongoing trials of young people involved in violence in the city, please see important resources below from the Local Authority Safeguarding in Education Team that you may wish to use and/or discuss with your young person.

- The Shadow Safeguarding Board of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership (KBSP) have produced a video for parents and carers on how to have conversations with children about knife crime - Video: [How to have conversations with your child about knife crime \(bristolsafeguardingineducation.org\)](#)
- The KBSP have also produced a [Young Person's Checklist](#) for keeping safe during the school holidays.

Fire safety

Whether it's during a major event like bonfire night or simply while using a heater as the days become colder, fire safety is a vitally important topic on which to educate young people. As parents and educators, it's vital that we teach the children in our care how to protect themselves around fire and flammable materials in a mature and responsible manner. Please see the next page for a resource on ***10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators on Teaching Children Fire Safety***. The resource is also included as a separate attachment.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.

2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE

Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British Standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.

3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER

If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.

5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you are hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and never attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.

6 BONFIRE SAFETY

If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.

7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"

Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES

Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.

9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are not toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.

10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children those techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fire-safety>

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As always, if you have any immediate concerns about safeguarding issues, students, or the school site, please get in touch via:

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