



**GREATER MANCHESTER  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

**Chief Fire Officer:** Dave Russel  
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue  
Service  
146 Bolton Road  
Swinton  
Manchester M27 8US  
Telephone 0161 736 5866  
[www.manchesterfire.gov.uk](http://www.manchesterfire.gov.uk)

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Dear Head Teacher,

As we are now in the summer term and the weather is improving, people are naturally drawn to our outdoor spaces. Many of these outdoor spaces have sites of open water which do not benefit from the professional supervision we may enjoy at beaches.

Many sites do have safety warnings and advise people not to enter the water, but as we know in hotter weather, people are inclined to ignore these signs. In recent years this has resulted in several deaths within the open water sites of Greater Manchester, some of those being young people.

The focus of this letter is your young people, as GMFRS Crews have seen a rise in young people using open water sites in the past couple of weeks and we want to ensure that safety messages are communicated to them in order to give them the information to keep themselves safe.

GMFRS produces a range of safety advice for the summer period, I am sure you are familiar with our annual Safe4Summer campaign.



GMFRS works in partnership with all ten Local Authorities, GMP and United Utilities to provide advice and guidance to keep our communities safe when they are around sites of open water.

In 2020 a dedicated Water Safety campaign was launched; a similar campaign will be launched very soon for 2021 and a range of safety messages will be included in this campaign. You will be contacted about this campaign in the coming weeks.

The social media messages will be shared with schools to forward on using your own groups. Further water safety advice can be found using the below link.

[Water safety - Greater Manchester Fire Rescue Service](#)

Can I ask that you make your young people aware of the safety messages relating to open water and share the information from the above links throughout your school?

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and please do contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Melanie Kearney

Prevention Manager  
Manchester Borough  
GMFRS  
Email: [preventionmanchester2@manchesterfire.gov.uk](mailto:preventionmanchester2@manchesterfire.gov.uk)

