



RESPECT
BELIEVE
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Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

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Ms K. Smyth Headteacher

25 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to make you aware of a concern that has been raised with us today regarding student safety in the local dock areas (as shown in the attached maps). Merseyside Police have designated several areas as S34 dispersal zones which means officers have power to direct young people out of an area and/or remove them from an area to their home or a place of safety.

This morning, we received information from a parent who reported that there are messages circulating on social media encouraging young people to go to the docks after school and engage in unsafe and anti-social behaviour, including entering the water. We are aware that similar concerns are being shared across other Liverpool schools.

Worryingly, a parent has also informed us that this behaviour did occur yesterday involving a small number of students from different schools. This highlights the very real risk to young people and the importance of acting proactively.

The docks present significant dangers, including cold water shock, hidden hazards beneath the surface, and difficulty exiting the water safely. Even confident swimmers can quickly get into serious difficulty. We ask for your support in reinforcing the following messages:

- Please speak with your child about this issue today.
- Ensure you know where your child is going after school during the hot weather.
- Ask your child to go straight home (or to a pre-agreed safe location).
- Make contact with your child at the end of the school day.
- Remind them clearly not to go to the dock areas or engage in any risky or anti-social behaviour.

We have also shared the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Water Safety leaflet again with this message for your information.

The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority, and we appreciate your support in helping to keep everyone safe.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Jo Leech

Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead

