

Dear parents/carers

### **Important safety message from Salford City Council**

As the school holidays approach, please make sure you and your children fully understand the dangers of jumping from bridges and swimming in Salford Quays, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and other open water.

Too many young people have already lost their lives; please help us prevent any more tragedies.

#### **Safety facts they may not appreciate:**

- The water in the Quays, rivers, lakes etc is cold even on the hottest days
- Jumping from any height into cold water sends the body into automatic shock causing people to gasp. Even the best swimmer will be affected.
- When you gasp you run the risk of taking water into your lungs and drowning; if you jump from a bridge you plunge deeper and increase the risk.
- There may also be hidden hazards which could prevent you from resurfacing
- If you swim outside an organised session with lifeguards you are relying on your family/friends/members of the public to save you if you get into difficulties
- Because of all these dangers there is a Public Spaces Protection Order in place which makes it against the law to jump from bridges and/or swim in Salford Quays except during organised swimming sessions with lifeguards.
- Organised swimming sessions have a safe ratio of lifeguards to swimmers.
- The bridges are monitored by CCTV and regular joint council/police safety patrols walk the area. They will advise young people of the dangers but if they choose to ignore that advice and are identified as jumping from any bridge they will be sent a warning letter with a home visit from the police.
- In previous years, several young people aged under 18 received a warning letter and home visit from the police. A number of adults received £100 fixed penalty notices for breaching the Public Spaces Protection Order.

The Quays is a wonderful area to visit and enjoy but we don't want that visit to end in tragedy.

It is also important to remember that many people call the Quays home and anti-social behaviour and littering is just as upsetting for them as for people in other areas of our city. It costs nothing to be kind and thoughtful; please help us so everyone stays safe and enjoys their summer at the Quays.

To see activities for young people in Salford, please see the My City Salford webpages for information about what is on <http://directory.salford.gov.uk/>

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