



Autumn Halloween and Firework Season School Briefing Sheet

Merseyside Police is working with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and local councils to promote firework safety and reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour over the firework period. Whilst the majority of young people's behaviour at this time of year is acceptable throughout Merseyside, the actions of a small minority can cause upset within the community.

With your support we can reduce the problems by ensuring young people between the ages of 11-16 years are aware of the problems associated with this time of year.

Please could you remind your pupils of the following important messages during assemblies, class registrations and/or through citizenship lessons:

Think about how your actions can affect others

- Tricks that you play on people can be very frightening and can have serious consequences.
- Some people feel that they have been targeted personally and may not leave their homes for weeks after a so-called 'trick' has been played on them.
- Be aware of your actions. This time of year can be very frightening for the elderly and very young and can cause distress or lead to illness. If you have elderly relatives think about how you would feel if they felt frightened or intimidated by a so-called 'trick'.

The police may arrest those responsible for anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

- Some 'tricks' that you play on people could cause damage to homes and property. If this is the case, you may have committed a criminal offence and could be arrested and prosecuted.
- Throwing missiles at houses, vehicles and people is an offence. If you are caught or reported to the police you could be arrested and receive a £60 fine or a criminal record.
- If you are fined, even if you don't have any money, your parents or guardian will have to pay the fine for you.

Please note

Merseyside Police is aware that the majority of young people's behaviour is acceptable throughout Merseyside and it is only the actions of a small minority that causes upset within the community.

Fireworks can be dangerous

- Fireworks are explosives and they are dangerous
- If you are under 16 and found in possession of a firework, including bangers, you can be arrested and fined £60. This even includes carrying fireworks in your pockets.
- You can also be arrested if you:
 1. throw or light a firework in the street
 2. make a bonfire in the street
 3. cause injury, endanger or annoy others with a firework
- Remember it is safer to go to an organised firework display

Don't forget there are lots of great activities and events happening right across Merseyside that you can get involved in at this time of year.

You can find out what's going on in your area and how to stay safe by visiting www.merseyside.police.uk/autumn-fun from Monday 16th October.

Do have fun with your friends but please enjoy this period safely and always respect others.

Please note

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