

PREVENTION 101

YOUTH EDITION

SCHOOLS OUT FOR
SUMMER!

Personal Safety

Now that we can safely say that the sun is going to be out for the next couple of months, it is likely that will mean that everyone is out and about more during the day and night. If we're out more, we have got to remember to keep ourselves safe – don't get complacent. There are a few basics that you should always keep in mind.

Safety around strangers

- If someone asks you for directions, be polite but stay out of reach.
- Don't accept a lift from a stranger.
- If you don't trust someone who approaches you, go to the nearest place where there are people.
- Call 111 immediately if you feel unsafe or in danger.
- Use common sense if you have to defend yourself – the intention is not to cause injury or get revenge.

Using a taxi or Uber

- Always use a reputable company or driver.
- Try to travel in pairs or groups (safety in numbers).
- Don't accept help to your door – just get dropped off at the driveway.

Online Safety

While being online is just second nature, you still need to make sure you're switched on while you're online. Some people are looking to take advantage of someone who will trust them – don't be a victim of someone like this.



Meeting people

- If you're meeting up with someone you've met online, meet in a public place during the day and tell someone who, when and where you're meeting.
- Be careful about the information (or photos) you give to someone you've met online and think about how they could use that information.
- If you're meeting someone to buy something, meet in a public place and take someone with you.

Safety with Alcohol

The end of the year always brings with it a few celebrations. If alcohol is going to play a part in your celebrations, make sure you do it in moderation and don't put yourself in danger. Alcohol is a drug and when things get out of control they can go very wrong very quickly.

Help your mates out

- Stick together and don't lose your friends.
- If a friend is feeling sick, confused or faint, stay with them and never leave them alone.
- If a drunk friend needs to go home, go with them in a taxi or Uber – don't send them off on their own.

At a bar or party

- Be wary of accepting drinks from strangers or people you don't know very well, even if they seem genuine.
- Always keep an eye on your drink.
- Stay in touch with your friends throughout the night.

Getting home at the end of the night

- Always have a sober driver, or make plans to stay over.
- It can be unsafe to go home with someone you have only just met.
- If you are uneasy about your taxi or Uber driver, don't get in.
- Never ever get in a car with a drunk driver.
- Don't walk off on your own (safety in numbers).



Having a party at your place

- Stay aware of who is invited to your party – gatecrashers and uninvited guests can cause trouble.
- Think about host responsibility – make sure there is food available for everyone.
- Make sure there is a sober, responsible adult available to help keep an eye on things.
- There are laws around providing alcohol to minors and hosting a party – your parents need to be aware that they are responsible for minors on their property.

Security

Don't get complacent with your security. Thieves and burglars look for opportunities and will target cars or properties that look easy to get into or have valuables on display. With the warm weather, we tend to want to leave our windows and doors open but to a thief this can look like an invitation to help themselves.



At home

- If you're upstairs or out the back, make sure the rest of the house isn't easily accessible without your knowledge – lock the doors and keep the windows closed.
- Call 111 immediately if you see someone suspicious – you could help us prevent a crime from taking place.
- Make an effort to make your house look 'lived in' if you're heading away on holiday (leave some lights on, close curtains etc).

In your car

- Don't leave your valuables on the front seat or visible anywhere in your car.
- Always lock your car when you leave it (even if just for a moment) and park it in a well-lit area.
- Consider installing an immobiliser or using a wheel lock on your car.



