

Water Safety

Every year young people visit open water such as rivers, lakes, canals and quarries to have fun, especially within periods of warmer weather. The Safer Schools Team have compiled the following information for you to share with students and parents.

Please note, we are only able to provide limited assemblies during the current restrictions, subject to your agreement.

Information

There are many different types of water in our communities, for example:

Rivers, lakes, canals, quarries, swimming pools, flood water, and the sea if you go on holiday.

Dangers of swimming in Open Water:

Hidden Dangers – netting, trollies, glass, rocks, trees;

Cold Shock – especially in outdoor water, the cold water could send your body into shock, (Hypothermia);

Blue–green algae - causes skin rashes, stomach upset and sore eyes;

Weil's disease – bacterial infection spread by animal urine, especially rats;

Stomach bugs from sewage in water – causes sickness and diarrhoea;

Swimmers itch – itchy rash over the body.

Facts

The average temperature of the sea in the UK is 12 degrees, with lakes and quarries being much colder.

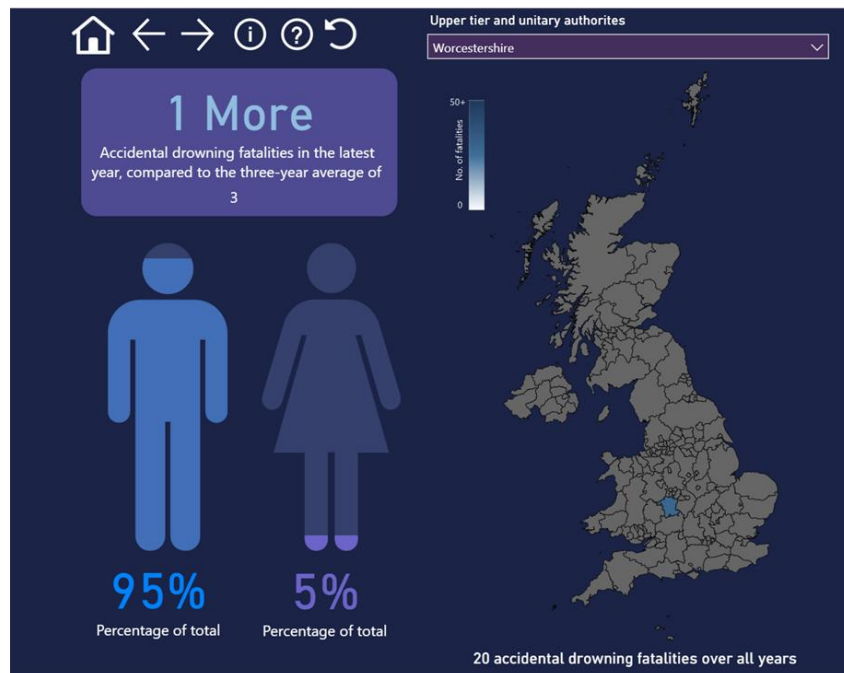
It is a misconception that many tragedies are caused by people being poor swimmers, it is the actual cold water immersion or inhalation that has the potential to cause instant cardiac arrest.

Fatalities from May 2019 to April 2020

UK = 344,

England = 241,

Worcestershire = 4 (this is an increase o previous years)



Safety Tips

Remember the word SAFE:

S = Spot the Dangers

A = Advice – follow the safety signs/advice

F = Friend – stay close to friends/family

E = Emergency – shout for help and know the emergency number of where you are.

Attached is a poster from the Royal Life Saving Society for the summer months along with their website link which contains more key information about water safety.

www.rlss.org.uk/water-safety-at-home

Please don't hesitate to contact PCSO Libby HORTON or PCSO Iain SWEATMAN your Local Safer School Officers should you need any further advice.
saferschoolssw@westmercia.pnn.police.uk



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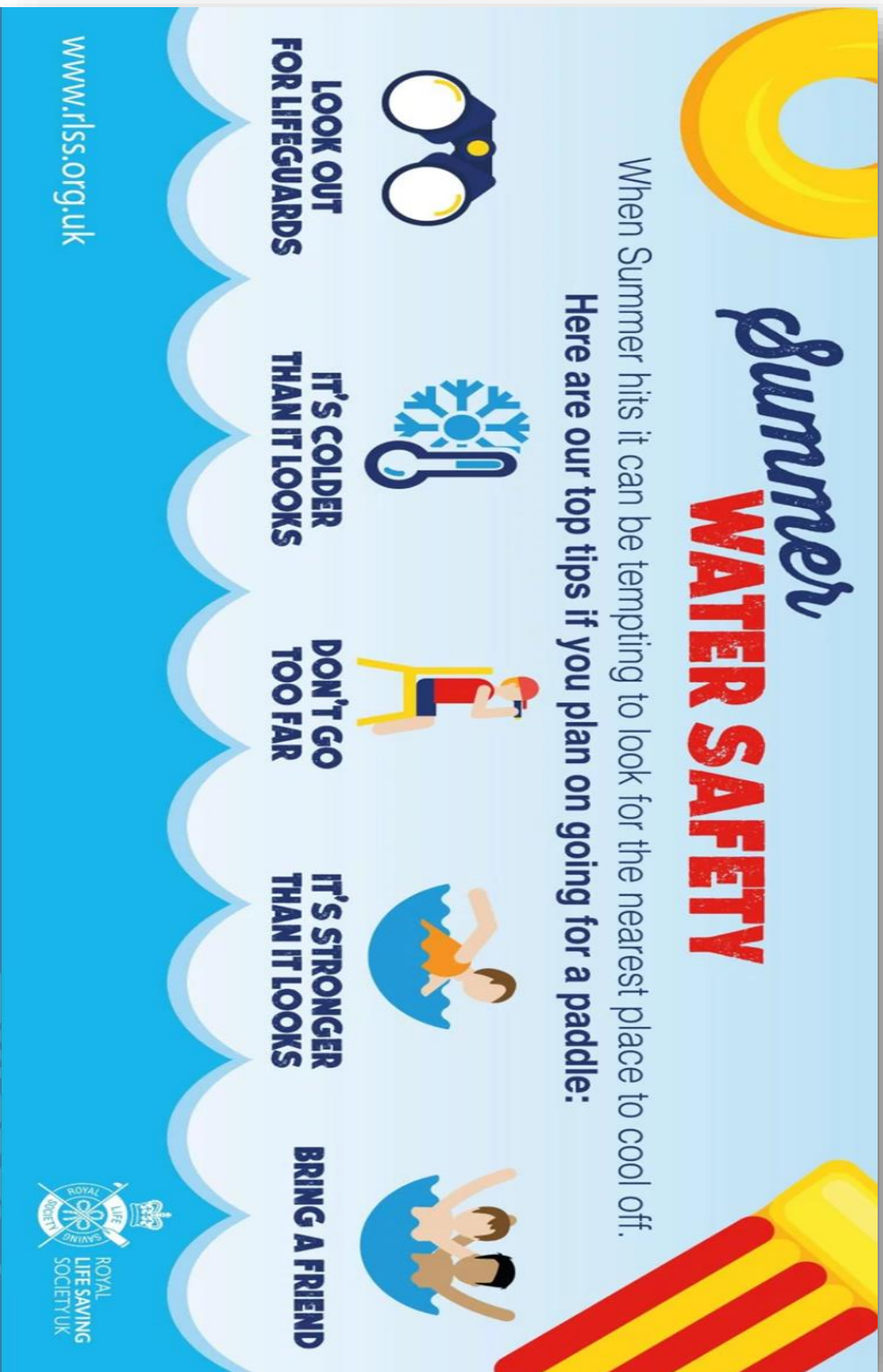


@WMerciaPolice



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www.westmercia.police.uk



The poster features a light blue background with a yellow sun in the top left and a yellow and red striped beach umbrella in the top right. The title 'Summer WATER SAFETY' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, a paragraph of text provides context. Five safety tips are listed, each accompanied by a colorful illustration: a life preserver, a snowflake with a thermometer, a person on a chair, a person in a pool, and two people in a pool. The bottom of the poster has a blue wavy border containing the website URL and the Royal Life Saving Society UK logo.

Summer **WATER SAFETY**

When Summer hits it can be tempting to look for the nearest place to cool off.
Here are our top tips if you plan on going for a paddle:

-  **LOOK OUT FOR LIFEGUARDS**
-  **IT'S COLDER THAN IT LOOKS**
-  **DON'T GO TOO FAR**
-  **IT'S STRONGER THAN IT LOOKS**
-  **BRING A FRIEND**

www.rlss.org.uk

 **ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY UK**