




Sending your child back to school is both an exciting and busy time. It's important to prioritise safety and have a conversation with your child about how to protect their valuables and travel safely to and from school.

Here are some tips to help keep your child safe:

1. Discuss safe routes and travel plans
- Plan the route: Walk or drive the route with your child this weekend before school starts. Point out safe places they can go if they need help.
 - Buddy system: Encourage your child to walk to and from school with a friend or a group whenever possible.
 - Avoid shortcuts: Teach them to avoid shortcuts through alleys, parks, or isolated areas.
 - Public transportation: If they take the bus or train, remind them to stay in well-lit areas and to avoid distractions like using their phone or listening to music with both earbuds in. Do they know a back-up route in case their usual bus or train is cancelled?

How to report crime

 999 (in an emergency) or 101

 If you are hearing or speech impaired, use our textphone service 18000 or text 999 if you've pre-registered

BACK TO SCHOOL - ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



2. Talk to them about what to do in an emergency:

- Stranger danger: Remind your child never to talk to or accept lifts from strangers. Have a code word that only you and they know, which someone can use if you need to send someone else to pick them up.
- Emergency Contacts: Make sure your child knows how to reach you and another trusted adult in case of an emergency.

3. Secure their valuables:

- Label personal items: Clearly label backpacks, lunch boxes, and other items with your child's name. This can deter thieves and help recover lost items.
- Limit valuables: Encourage your child not to bring valuable items or large amounts of money to school.
- Switch on phone location: For children travelling alone we recommend location sharing with [Life360](#) [Life360 | Family Tracking App | Location Sharing & Family Safety](#).
- 4. Get to know their new school:
- Meet the staff: Familiarise yourself and your child with their teachers, pastoral team, and school security staff. This helps build a sense of community and security. Every secondary school in the West Midlands has an assigned police schools officer.