



Archdiocese of
Birmingham

St. Maria Goretti Catholic Academy

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Friday 8th July 2016

Dear Parents/carers,

I am writing with regards to an incident which occurred on Wellfield Road and Dawlish Drive early one evening this week. Having spoken to Staffordshire Police we have reason to believe that a man was seen approaching children from his car and gesturing for them to come near to him. The car has been described as a red Volkswagon polo.

Whilst we cannot be sure of his intentions, this is an ideal opportunity to talk to our children about 'Stranger Danger'. For your information and guidance I have taken an extract from the NSPCC website.

Just like deciding when a child's old enough to be left at home on their own, there's no set age when you know it will be safe for them to go out without you. Obviously, toddlers and young children won't be able to stay safe without you watching over them, and even older children have different levels of maturity. So some 11 year olds will be quite capable of going to the park or the shops on their own but others might not be ready to do this safely.

As well as thinking about how mature your child is for their age, the decision about whether you're happy for them to go out alone will depend on where they're planning to go. For example, going to the playground round the corner is very different to catching a bus to the local shops.

Because we all want our children to be as safe as possible, you really need to feel comfortable before letting them go out on their own. So some of the questions to ask yourself before you make up your mind are:

*where and when do they want to go?
what do they want to do there?
who's going to be with them?
how far away are they going?
what time will they be back?
how can I reach them?*

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/staying-safe-away-from-home/>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Z. Cooper (NPQH, SLE)
Head Of School



All Saints Catholic Collegiate