

24th May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Ref: Police warning re suspicious vehicle

We have been contacted by representatives of North Somerset Council and Avon and Somerset Constabulary to pass on details of a series of concerning incidents which occurred in the Worle area of Weston since the start of May.

Two pupils at one local school in Worle reported this week being followed by a white van on their way to school. Although the van driver did not approach the children or attempt to speak to them, the children said the van mirrored their walking speed by stopping when they stopped.

We understand this is the fourth incident of this type involving a white van in the Weston area since the beginning of May.

As always, our priority is for the safety and wellbeing of all Haywood Village Academy children, both in school and on their journey to and from home. We will therefore be talking to children about staying safe, what to do if they are approached by someone they do not know, and what we will do to support them. Students will be spoken to by their teachers today, and our Inclusion team will be available throughout the day to support our children.

We are encouraging parents and carers to reinforce these safety messages by continuing the conversation at home. Do please remind your children to be vigilant on their journeys to and from school, and to walk with friends and along busier routes where possible.

If your child reports concerns about the behaviour of an adult in the community, or you witness any incident of this type, please report the details to police via 101 – or by calling 999 in an emergency.

Additionally, if you have any concerns to share – or have any questions about the content of this letter – you are welcome to reach out to the school through the usual channels.

Many thanks,

Mrs Saunter
Safeguarding Lead and Family Support Worker