

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Roisin Paul



June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

With the upcoming warm weather forecast this weekend, we would like to share a timely reminder about the potential dangers around open water. As temperatures are set to rise, we know that children, young people, and families may be spending more time outdoors, and it's important that we help raise awareness of the risks. For more information, here are links to council pages:

- [Wakefield Hub Water Safety](#)
- [Wakefield Council Water Safety](#)

Key Water Safety Guidance

- ◆ **Cold Water Shock:** Sudden immersion in open water—even in warm weather—can cause an involuntary gasp, rapid breathing, and heart strain. This is one of the biggest risks for strong and weak swimmers alike.
- ◆ **Hidden Hazards:** Open water often contains unseen dangers such as strong currents, weeds, sudden drop-offs, and debris. These hazards can trap or disorient swimmers.
- ◆ **Supervision Near Water:** Children and young people should be closely supervised around rivers, lakes, reservoirs, canals, and even garden ponds. Drowning can be silent and fast.
- ◆ **Jumping Into Water:** Jumping or diving into unknown water can lead to serious injury due to submerged objects or shallow areas.
- ◆ **Inflatables Warning:** Inflatables can easily be swept away by wind or currents. They are safest in supervised pools, not open water.
- ◆ **What To Do in an Emergency: If someone is in trouble:**
 - Call 999 and ask for the **Coastguard** (coastal) or **Fire & Rescue** (inland)
 - Use the **“Reach or Throw, Don’t Go”** principle
 - Keep eyes on the person and guide emergency services to the location

There is a big new campaign by Respect The Water which is Phone. Float. Throw. – more info linked below:

- [Phone Float Throw – Respect The Water](#)
- [Phone Float Throw | National Water Safety Forum](#)

Kind Regards

Kathryn Hargreaves
Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead