

## SCHOOLWATCH

The police have made us aware that there were 3 separate incidents last week, 2 in Bournemouth and one in Dorset .All 3 related to men in white vans although police are treating these as unrelated. In 2 incidents it would appear that children may have been approached.

Please could we ask that you remind your staff, children and parents/carers about the need to be vigilant and to report any concerns they have on their way to or from school or within their community to the police. You may wish to remind parents/carers and children about 'stranger danger' and how to keep safe when away from home.

Nick Ellis from the Borough's Traffic and schools team has offered the following advice in relation to a child's safety when they are walking home from school without supervision

- To walk in a group whenever possible
- Don't talk to strangers
- Make your way direct to your destination
- Walk 'with a purpose'
- If you are not going directly home after school make a parent/carer aware or ask the school or a friend's parent to do so. This will ensure that someone knows where you are and when to expect you
- When you cross the road use crossings whenever possible, if not possible, make it obvious that you are about to cross

If a child is approached by a stranger they should

- Ignore if possible
- Shout out to call attention to the situation if in danger
- Get into a safe space e.g. shop
- Tell a trusted adult

Further advice can be found in Workspace – Documents – road safety

And from the NSPCC

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

<https://www.safety4kids.com.au/safety-zone/stranger-danger/yell-and-tell>

I would advise that the information from the NSPCC , safety4kids and Workspace is considered for your own school safeguarding web site page.