

Water Safety – Safeguarding May 2025

Information and stats from the ‘Royal Lifesaving Society UK’

49% of UK accidental drownings occur between May and August. We also see a heightened risk of drowning when air temperatures are higher.

When UK average maximum air temperatures reach or exceed 25°C...

- There is a fivefold increase in accidental drowning risk, when compared to days with an average temperature of 10°C
- Over half (57%) of those who drowned were swimming, reflecting more people actively entering the water
- Teenagers (aged 13-17 years) and young adults are proportionately more likely to lose their lives

Advice from the ‘Canal and River Trust’

<https://youtu.be/UigPQiPG4zw>

Summer water safety

On a hot day, it might seem like a great idea to cool down in open water. However, swimming in canals and rivers is dangerous.

Swimming is prohibited because there are too many risks that you can't see hidden below the surface, and lots of other ways you can cool down with two feet on the towpath.

1. Depth perception

Canals are often shallow, which you can't tell from the surface. If you jump in you are likely to injure yourself, possibly seriously

However, don't be fooled by thinking that all canals are shallow. If you can't put your feet on the ground, it'll be much harder to get out. Rivers, reservoirs and docks are generally much deeper, and colder

2. Hidden dangers under the water

Canals are havens for wildlife and maintaining water habitats are an important part of our work. If you're in the water, reeds and other plant life could get tangled around your limbs and trap you in the water making it very difficult to climb out

Sadly, rubbish like shopping trolleys can be lurking below the surface of canals and rivers. If you're in the water you could injure yourself by cutting yourself on a rusty old bicycle or broken glass, or get trapped on a larger piece of rubbish, like a trolley or even a motorbike

3. Cold temperatures

Even on a hot day inland waterways will be colder than you think, particularly reservoirs and docks as they're deeper. The sudden exposure to cold water can cause a number of involuntary bodily reactions - this is cold water shock.



Summer
WATER SAFETY

To enjoy the water safely and make the right call...

- 
ENTER SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY
- 
STAY WITHIN REACH
- 
ALWAYS BE SUPERVISED

In an emergency...

- 
CALL 999
- 
IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE FLOAT AND CALL FOR HELP



Lifeboats

If you're struggling in the water ...

Tilt your head back with ears submerged

Relax and move your hands to help you stay afloat

FLOAT TO LIVE

#RESPECTTHEWATER

If you have any concerns around safeguarding,

then please contact:

Mr J Grayston
(Assistant Principal and Designated Safeguard Lead)
jgrayston@rodillianacademy.co.uk