

Dear Parents / Carers

SAFETY AT CHRISTMAS

We hope you are looking forward to the Christmas holidays and hopefully being able to spend time with friends and family over the festive season. The schools in the locality work very closely together along with other partners to ensure that all our young people are safe at this time and throughout the year.

It is popular at this time of year for young people of the age of 12 and above to visit the City Centre during the evenings, particularly on a Friday night.

Sadly, it has come to our attention that a large number of young people do not enter the safety of premises where they can take part in activities and instead gather in groups at various locations across the City Centre. There have been reports of a range of dangerous and anti social behaviours including underage drinking, spiking of drinks and verbally and physically aggressive confrontations between both girls and boys.

We would like you to be aware of the concerns in the area and if you are taking your child to a City Centre venue, such as a leisure facility, cinema or fast food restaurant please be confident that they are entering the safety of these venues and that you are confident of their whereabouts.

Somewhere like Riverside is a very well managed and safe venue with a popular Friday evening "disco" session attracting hundreds of well behaved 12-16 year olds under close supervision. They will be much safer in such venues but at greater risk if they choose not to enter and roam or gather at popular outdoor locations around the City Centre. As a group of schools we have passed our concerns to the Police who have assured us that there is a highly visible police presence at various hotspots in the City Centre, but we are also asking you to play your part.

Wishing you a very merry and peaceful Christmas.

On behalf of,

Public Health and Protection Services, Chelmsford City Council

Chelmsford and Maldon District: Essex Police

Mid Essex Secondary Schools Behaviour & Attendance Partnership

