

Dear Teachers/Parents,

As you may be aware, the police are investigating several suspicious incidents that have occurred in parts of east Wirral recently.

On Tuesday, January 10, there was an incident in **Bidston** in which a 15-year-old girl was walking home from school when she was asked the time by a man following behind her. When she turned around she saw that the man was exposing himself to her. This young girl acted very sensibly and immediately walked away from the offender and informed her parents, who called the police.

A similar thing happened on January 2 in **Birkenhead** in which a mother and her 15-year-old daughter were subject to an indecent exposure. Again, the matter was reported swiftly to the police and a description of this man passed to us.

I would like to assure you that all incidents like this are being treated extremely seriously by us and some of you will have read the appeals for information about the above offences that we have made through the local media.

Investigations are underway and information is being reviewed and acted upon on a daily basis. **A number of arrests have followed.**

Our priorities are ensuring that our communities remain safe and that the person or persons responsible for these offences are traced.

I am aware that there have been various rumours circulating between schools and also on the Internet about attempted or actual abductions of schoolchildren. I can assure you that no **confirmed** reports have been received by the police and none of the above incidents I refer to have occurred at schools.

Naturally, people are worried when they hear about incidents like this and misinformation can spread but the most important message I hope you can help me get across is that children should **not** talk to strangers. Our advice is always that young children are accompanied to and from school by a parent or adult carer, and that older children always walk in a group. Children of all ages are encouraged to always report any suspicious behaviour to a parent or teacher, who can then call the police.

You may see more police officers in your area than normal and I hope you will be reassured by this. My officers are always willing to stop and have a chat so they can address any concerns people have or pass on information.

If you have any information at all about this or other similar incidents please do not hesitate in contacting Wirral police via the Force's switchboard on 101 or in confidence through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Phil Davies
Chief Inspector
Merseyside Police
Wirral
Operations – Neighbourhood Policing
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