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Director of Education,
Head of Hackney Learning Trust:
Annie Gammon

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Dear parent/carer,

We're aware that the summer holidays are coming up. We hope you and your child/children have an excellent few weeks.

We are aware that this can also be a time when some parents and carers may be worried about their children's safety if unsupervised. We know that some young people can feel unsure about how best to keep safe and what to do if they find themselves in a situation they are uncomfortable with.

It is important to us that all children and parents feel safe, that they can enjoy the summer break and know who to turn to if they have any concerns.

We have compiled some useful information and contacts which parents/carers can turn to if they have child-related concerns, and need support, information or advice, as well as some helpful resources for young people.

We've also included information on the many free borough-wide activities taking place for young people this summer in Hackney, which are included in our Summer Guide, which was distributed via Hackney Today, and can be found in local libraries as well as online.

We hope that you find this information useful.

Kind regards,

Annie Gammon
Director of Education

Caroline Selman
Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Policy and the Voluntary Sector

Anntoinette Bramble
Deputy Mayor & Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care

Local events and activities for your child over the summer:

- [Young Hackney Summer Activities Guide 2019](#) - This is your one-stop guide for all of our summer activities for children and young people aged 0-19. Featuring information about the best local places to play sports, where to swim for free, where to produce music, as well as advice on the next steps to take once summer is over.
- [Discover Young Hackney \(DYH\)](#) - Hackney Council's award-winning youth summer arts programme. It offers a range of free workshops and events aimed at bringing local children together, celebrating local talent, and allowing children to unlock their creativity in a fun and friendly environment. This year's programme features a range of activities, from illustration & modern Shakespeare workshops, to creative networking events and African jewellery-making classes.
- **Young Hackney Youth Hubs** - All of our hubs offer a jam-packed summer programme, and many fun, dynamic and diverse activities for local young people that cover a range of interests, including arts & crafts, cooking, dance, music, IT, sports, music production, bike maintenance and wheelchair basketball.
 - [Concorde, Kingsmeade](#)
 - [Forest Road, Dalston Junction](#)
 - [The Edge, Woodberry Grove](#)
 - [Stoke Newington hub](#)

You can keep up to date with Young Hackney's jam-packed summer programme - as well as events being run by our partners and other local organisations - through our [website](#), e-newsletter which you can sign up to receive [here](#), and social channels:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Twitter](#)

If you are worried about your child and need some advice, or just want a chat, there are plenty of organisations and local groups you can turn to:

- [FAST \(First Access Screening Team\)](#) - Whether you are a parent, carer or member of the community, if you have any concerns about a young person, groups of young people, or a location where you feel children are unsafe and would like guidance and support, the Council's First Access & Screening Team (FAST) can help provide advice, help and guidance.
E-mail: Fast@hackney.gov.uk
Telephone: 020 8356 5500

- [Parents' Voice](#) - This parent-led initiative runs free sessions in Hackney where parents can discuss concerns about their children's behaviour and empower each other through their own experiences as parents. The group invites professionals from organisations such as the Integrated Gangs Unit, Hackney Minds, the domestic violence team, and many more to offer advice, understanding and support to parents. They also have an app that provides useful information and resources for parents and carers, which is available on both Android and iPhone (simply search Parents Voice).
Telephone: 07961859921
- [The City and Hackney Wellbeing Project](#) - Commissioned by Hackney Council, this partnership of specialist mental health providers offers free support to help people prevent the onset of mental health problems, as well as offering support to adults with severe and enduring mental health conditions.
E-mail: SPOE@mindchwf.org.uk
Telephone: 020 8525 2301
- [Fearless](#) - This youth charity allows people to give information and report incidents with a guarantee of anonymity. Fearless also runs projects within schools and youth clubs.
[Contact Fearless](#)
- [Victim Support](#) - access free, confidential and tailored support from this independent charity, which offers guidance to those who have been victims of crime or affected by crime, as well as [tailored information](#) for parents and carers.
[Contact Victim Support](#)

Tips for keeping your child safe over the summer holidays:

- **Stay alert** - ensure that your child is aware of the importance of staying alert, trusting their instincts and not talking to strangers. Encourage your child to walk away from situations that don't feel right, and to avoid dangerous routes.
- **Buddy-up** - encourage your child to walk with their friends or as part of a group if possible, and ensure that they know they're safer when they have company.
- **Use safe routes** - ensure that your child uses well-lit routes at nighttime and stays in busy areas. If your child does have to use a quieter route to return home, remind them of the importance of staying alert and encourage them to not walk alone with headphones in during nighttime hours.
- **Phone-aware** - make sure that your child knows your mobile phone number off-by-heart, or has it written down, and empower them to feel confident calling 999 if they are the victim of a crime or in any danger

- **Be open** - it's important to create an open dialogue with your child about safety outside the home and any potential dangers that they might face. Being open, and listening to concerns that your child might have can also encourage them to be more confident about discussing their concerns with other adults, such as teachers.
- **Teach your child to stay in touch** - you may wish to encourage your child to inform you of changes in plans, for example, if they inform you that they're going to stay in their local area but decide to travel to another area
- **Who to reach out to in an emergency** - teach your child who they can go to in an emergency, for example, is there a security guard nearby, or another adult who could help?

For more on Hackney's approach to tackling violent crime please see [here](#).