

Dear Parents/Carers

Please note the following information below sent by West Midlands Police to all schools in Walsall. This is meant as a reminder to talk with your children to enable them to keep safe and be vigilant rather than to scare you! It is an isolated incident.

Thank you.

*We're investigating after a schoolgirl was followed on her way to school last Friday (7 May). The nine-year-old from Walsall, had just been dropped off by her parents nearby.*

*She immediately ran into school and informed staff of what happened.*

*The man is described as white and looked older than a teenager. He was wearing a brown beanie hat and blue jeans.*

*Local officers have been in the area to offer reassurance to pupils and parents.*

*We take all reports of this nature seriously and thank people for their vigilance.*

*It's timely to remind youngsters to observe our personal safety advice:*

- Never go off on your own with a stranger, take things from them or get in a car with them.
- Make sure you tell your parents where you are.
- If someone scares you, or makes you feel uncomfortable go somewhere safe, which could be your home, your school or a police station.
- Remember to tell someone what has happened straight away.
- Always dial 999 in an emergency.

Some great tips and advice can be found here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/staying-safe-away-from-home/>