

A message for Merseyside Schools this Halloween & Bonfire from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

To all Merseyside Schools,

We at Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service are acutely aware that this year's bonfire period will be unlike any other. Our usual partnership work with schools involves visits to the schools which we know will not be possible in the current conditions. The local restrictions in place have also resulted in the cancellation of organised displays and diversionary activities, which we would normally signpost children and young people towards.

We understand that young people may be feeling anxiety, that they are being unfairly cooped up at home and unable to see friends, but it is more important than ever that they make the right choices in order to stay safe and stay out of trouble this Bonfire period.

With that in mind, we have worked with our communications team to produce some short videos which we would like you to share with your pupils to encourage them to think about their behaviour and make the right choices.

We have two new videos this year, one of which is an animation about making the right choice between positive and negative behaviour. This should be suitable for anyone and is available here <https://bit.ly/3ISoFVE>

The second is harder hitting and depicts serious and permanent injury as a result of firework misuse. While this is not graphic, serious injury is depicted in the soundtrack and we would suggest careful consideration should be made before showing to younger or sensitive children as it may upset them. You should review this video before showing it to pupils here <https://bit.ly/35g05rb>

We also have videos addressing issues such as attacks on fire crews and deliberate fire setting which we have updated for 2020 and are available here: <https://bit.ly/3dCtP5f>

We would suggest that these short videos are viewed before showing to pupils to ensure suitability for the age group of the audience.

You will also find a new leaflet with bonfire messages supplied with this message, it would be great if schools could display this on websites and attach to emails to parents etc. so our key messages reach parents as well as young people.

Have a happy and safe bonfire period,



Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service