



Halloween 2020 Communications

Dear School, Parents & Carers

Halloween 2020 will be different to previous years as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the usual messages around safety and behaviour stay the same but our key messages have changed to ensure everyone keeps to the Covid Legislation and helps to keep our communities safe.

In line with the 'Rule of Six' legislation, people will not be able to hold Halloween parties and trick-or-treating is unadvisable in the current climate.

Large scale fire work displays / bonfire events have been cancelled in the county due to the Covid legislation. We are aware some smaller private events may still be organised and it is important that we share the messages around social distancing and legislation still expected by every person at these events.

This communication aims to help clarify advice for the public on what Halloween 2020 should look like, and we would be happy for you to share these key messages with the parents in the run up to October half term.

Key Messages

- One dilemma facing parents this year is how to take part in Halloween without breaching Covid-19 legislation.
- Our advice is for parents is to steer away from taking part in the traditional form of trick-or-treating. It is vital that people from different households mix as little as possible in order to stop the spread of coronavirus.
- For many children dressing up and going out with friends and family trick-or-treating is a highlight of their year and we understand not being able to do this will be upsetting for them, especially when they've already had such a tough 2020.
- An alternative approach suggested for parents which the Force endorses, draws on the rainbow challenge which proved so popular in the spring. People who want to be involved in Halloween can display pumpkins (unlit), or pictures in their windows in the run-up to October 31. Then parents/guardians can go out with their dressed-up children and try to find them. We are aware that many local towns and villages in the county are organising similar "Halloween Trails", and this would make a great Halloween themed activity during half term.

- A number of pumpkin posters for children to colour in will be available to download and print from our website.
- We urge parents of older children to talk to them about why it's advised they don't take part in trick-or-treating this year and to respect people's decision not to take part. Anti-social behaviour is not acceptable and additional police patrols will be taking place during the Halloween period.
- A no trick-or-treating poster is available to download from our website.

This advice is subject to change, should the guidance/legislation from Government change before October 31, 2020.