



## BE SMART, BE PREPARED

Dear Head teacher/Governor,

During the week of 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> October the Local Resilience Forum for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR Prepared) is running its annual 'Prepared Week' campaign which is aimed at encouraging people to be better prepared for emergencies.

This year we are keen to engage with young people across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and raise awareness of different themes and associated advice among schools, community groups and agencies that work with young people.

Nationally, Counter Terrorism Policing has been running an Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) campaign which aims to raise awareness of what to do if you are caught in a terrorist incident. You may have seen the RUN, HIDE, TELL message online or in the media as this forms the main part of the campaign – RUN to safety, HIDE if you can't, and TELL the police when you're safe.

While the chances of being caught up in such an incident are rare, it is important that young people are prepared and know how to protect themselves if the need arises. We know from case studies and testimony of people who have survived attacks that, if followed, this advice can save lives. However, it is crucial that this message is conveyed to young people in a way that is sensitive and not alarmist.

To support teachers to do this safely and confidently, national guidance and two accompanying lesson plans (one for key stage 3 and one more suitable for key stage 4) have been produced by Counter Terrorism Policing, in collaboration with the PSHE Association and Girlguiding, and this forms part of the ACT for YOUTH campaign aimed at 11-16 year olds.

The advice is that these lessons should not be a 'one off', or delivered in the immediate aftermath of a gun or knife attack, as this is likely to raise feelings of anxiety for young people rather than provide reassurance (the PSHE Association has published separate guidance on talking to children and young people in the event of a terrorist incident). Instead, they should be taught within the context of a planned series of lessons developing risk management and personal safety skills. It is important that young people are able and confident to report suspicious behaviour or items, and to protect themselves in the unlikely event of being caught up in a gun or knife attack.



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It would be appreciated if during LLR Prepare week, or at another convenient time, you would consider using the national ACT for Youth materials available and delivering sessions promoting the Run, Hide Tell advice in your schools to better prepare your students for what to do should they find themselves caught up in an attack.

All the education material and guidance can be found via this link  
<https://www.npcc.police.uk/CounterTerrorism/actforyouth.aspx>

More information about the national ACT campaign can be found here  
<https://act.campaign.gov.uk/>

We would appreciate your support during LLR Prepared Week in helping us build resilient communities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

**Simon Cole, Chief Constable  
Leicestershire Police and Chair of LLR Prepared**  
[www.llrprepared.org.uk](http://www.llrprepared.org.uk)