

## WAINUIOMATA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



## KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE

The following advice from the Police is for both families and students. While some of this may be more applicable to younger pupils and children, it is a time reminder to all of us about student safety.

### ***Advice for parents, caregivers and students***

- Teach your child how to get safely to and from school and other places they go – whether they walk, bike or go by bus.
- Make clear rules about getting home.
- Go to school with your child so that you can show them the safest route.
- Teach them to deal with hazards like narrow footpaths or busy roads. If they walk, make sure they always use pedestrian crossings.
- Meet the parents of children in your area and keep in touch.
- Teach the children to walk home together in twos or small groups, not alone. Make other arrangements if someone is away.

### ***Advice for families, whanau and caregivers***

- We encourage families, whanau and caregivers to have discussions with their children about keeping safe.
- Have sensible family safety guidelines.
- Have discussions around behaviours and actions that are inappropriate or that make them feel uncomfortable, rather than concentrating on the types of people that could harm them.
- Encourage children and young people to take action when they feel unsafe or uncomfortable.
- Make it easy for your child to talk to you and tell you about anything that is bothering them.
- Listen carefully to what your child is saying. They are unlikely to tell you directly that they are being abused so you may need to read between the lines.
- In some situations when children feel unsafe, they can take responsibility and act appropriately to keep themselves safe. In other situations, the child may or may not be able to do something to get out of the unsafe situation, but they still need to report what has happened to an older responsible person and seek adult help and support. For example, a child who witnesses family violence may be able to remove themselves to a safe place, but still needs to later seek the help of an adult to see if this family behaviour can be stopped.

### ***Advice for kids***

- Remove yourself from the uncomfortable situation, no matter who it is from.
- You must tell someone if other people make you feel unsafe, worried or scared.
- If the first person doesn't help, go on telling until someone listens and takes action.