

### Child Death Review Team Comms

*The Child Death Review Team Newsletter is circulated to all partners within Birmingham and Solihull to highlight campaigns and share learning from local child death reviews.*

#### Drowning Prevention Week 2024 runs from Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Drowning Prevention Week (DPW) is one of the largest summer water safety campaigns across the UK and Ireland.

DPW is the Royal Life Saving Society UK's biggest campaign of the year, targeting families, carers, teachers and instructors of children aged five to fifteen years old with the aim of educating them about water safety.

No child should drown, and with the right water safety education – such as knowledge of the Water Safety Code – accidental drownings are preventable. Drowning Prevention Week is deliberately timed ahead of the school summer holidays when children spend more time outdoors and when vital water safety skills can help keep children safe.

Please help us to spread the word this year and encourage everyone to have the water safety conversation with children. DPW is critical in raising awareness and encouraging the public to enjoy water safely.



[Royal Life Saving Society UK's Drowning Prevention Week \(rlss.org.uk\)](https://rlss.org.uk)  
[Printable Resources \(rlss.org.uk\)](https://rlss.org.uk)

## 10 Drowning Facts



# 10 CHILD DROWNING FACTS

In the last 5 years,  
**119 children**  
accidentally drowned in the UK.

**71%**

of UK child drownings occur between May and August.

2022 saw a  
**46% increase**  
in the number of child drownings in the UK, compared to the 5-year average.

**84%**  
of UK child drownings occur in inland waters e.g. rivers, lakes and canals.

**79%**  
of children that accidentally drown in the UK are male.

Drowning is currently reported as one of the **leading causes of child trauma-related deaths** in England.

**83%**  
of child drownings in England occurred in the absence of adult supervision.

In our analysis, **71% of children aged 13-17** that accidentally drowned in the UK were swimmers.

The risk of drowning is **2x higher** for children from the **more deprived areas of England**, compared to those from the least deprived.

The risk of drowning in England is **3.5 x higher** for children of **Black ethnicity** compared to White ethnicity.

### **No child should drown.**

We provide expert lifesaving education in the UK and Ireland, protecting families from the sudden and devastating impact of drowning.

Notes: UK drowning data taken from WAID (2018-2022). Irish data taken from Water Safety Ireland (2018-2022). These numbers do not include UK or Irish nationals drowning overseas. 'Inland' and 'Coastal' splits are as follows: 'Inland' refers to the following locations: canal/aqueduct, dry ground, drain/well, lake/loch/lough, marsh, pond, quarry, reservoir, river, stream/ditch/burn. 'Coastal' includes at sea, harbour/dock, coast/shore/beach. Locations excluded from this analysis are bath, pool (swimming) and water container. Data for England taken from the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) Report Deaths of children and young people due to traumatic incidents, July 2023. RLS5 UK analysis based on n=120 cases of accidental drowning amongst teens aged 13-17 years