



Dear Principal,

I would be grateful if you could deliver the safety message below to all students as we are keen to ensure young people do not get involved in behaviour that could impact on their future or lead to a criminal record.

SAFETY MESSAGE

Over the last number of weeks, a phenomenon has swept across different countries, where people dressed in clown costumes have sought to threaten and scare others. Locally, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has responded to a range of incidents.

In some cases, individuals dressed in clown costumes carrying weapons threatened members of the public. There have also been reports of people dressing in clown costumes and carrying toy knives to scare others. In some instances, people dressed in costumes are jumping in front of traffic and putting their own lives at risk.

This phenomenon has generated fear in our communities and police are actively asking young people to avoid getting caught up in this behaviour.

Don't put yourself in harm's way and don't get involved in behaviour that could lead to you getting a criminal record.

The Law

Some of the offences that could be committed by people taking part in this include:

Common assault: any act which intentionally or recklessly causes another to fear immediate, unlawful violence. If you cause someone real fear, whether you mean to or not, you could be committing an offence!

Possession of an offensive weapon: any item made, adapted or intended to cause injury.

Disorderly behaviour: Shouting and generally causing a disturbance.

Some of these offences carry an immediate fine of £85 but could (depending on the circumstances) land you in court!

Enjoy Halloween, be sensible though if you do need police call us on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Superintendent Muir Clark, District Policing Command