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**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

Railway Line Safety

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Recently Police Scotland dealt with an incident where young persons were playing on the railway line, they were traced safe by Police and taken home. Unfortunately this is not the first incident of its kind in the last six months in the North East Division and continues to be a concern to all.

The railway line is an extremely dangerous environment and I would urge parents / carers to talk to their children about the risks of playing on or near it especially those families who live near a line.

Young persons fail to understand the danger they put themselves and others in when they make the choice to step on the track.

Children of primary school age can be fascinated by trains. The varied and interesting noises, people and environments this combined with the feeling of movement and speed make the idea and experience of rail travel a great adventure. This age group can, however, lack awareness of the dangers posed by the railway.

- Trains travelling at high speed are not able to stop quickly and will hit any obstruction on the track.
- When trains are moving directly towards you they are barely audible—until it's too late.
- Trains produce wind turbulence so powerful that it can drag somebody standing next to the tracks under the wheels of the train.

Network Rail and British Transport Police run a hard hitting safety campaign - You Vs Train, which highlights the devastating consequences of trespassing on the railway.

www.youvstrain.co.uk

Network Rail also provides community safety education on their website which can provide further learning materials to help protect young persons.

www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/safety-in-the-community/safety-education/

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Rail safety is incredibly important and education is key, especially for young people. Knowing how to navigate the railways in a safe and secure manner is vital, as while trains and their tracks are important and crucial to our everyday lives, there are indeed dangers present if certain rules are not followed.

Whenever you are on a line it can result in tragic consequences and life-changing injuries.

**This alert was sent out for your information on behalf of
Police Scotland, North East Division Safer Communities**

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