



The Safer Harlow Partnership

Working together for a safer community

Harlow Council
Civic Centre
The Water Gardens
Harlow
Essex CM20 1WG
www.harlow.gov.uk

Date: 17/10/2025

Operation Pumpkin

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are writing to you as a parent or guardian of a young person who attends a school within Harlow. We are seeking your support over the Halloween and Fireworks period. Typically, this time of year is the busiest for anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime linked to young people both nationally and locally. Many children enjoy this time of year but, unfortunately, we have seen some being drawn in to taking some initial fun too far.

We have previously had incidents where young people have aimed lit fireworks at each other, members of the public and moving traffic. Others have thrown lit fireworks towards crowds of people, causing injury or damage to both them and others. We have also seen fireworks used inappropriately and sometimes dangerously, day and night, causing unnecessary worry and upset to both people and animals.

This year we will be running Operation Pumpkin where we will have increased patrols in hot spot areas of both uniformed and non-uniformed officers. These patrols will be to support those enjoying the half term and Halloween but also to prevent offences being committed and keep communities safe.

We will be taking a robust approach to those involved in ASB and will work together with the Safer Harlow Partnership to ensure everyone is kept safe.

Please ensure you know where your child / children are, and who they are with, during the days that lead up to and after Halloween and firework nights.

Please highlight to them the dangers of being drawn into this behaviour, that could lead to injury to themselves or others as well as possible criminal proceedings. We also ask that if you hear of any planned activity that you report it to Essex Police at www.essex.police.uk. There are also posters that you can print to put in your window to either welcome or deter trick or treaters which can be found on the Essex Police website when you search Halloween.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support in keeping Harlow a safe place to live, visit and work, and not allowing the behaviour of the minority to negatively impact upon communities.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Archer' with '135P 156.' written below it.

Inspector Leanne Archer
Harlow Community Policing Team