



Dear Parent/Carer,

Public Space Protection Order Notice (PSPO)

Within the city there is an order in place that prevents the following things being done, in any public space within the Wolverhampton City Centre, in particular the Bus Station and Pipers Row. This document is for your awareness as and to encourage the discussion with your children around the importance of adhering to it.

There has been an increase in Anti-Social incidents within the city centre, with the majority of incidents recorded in and around Dudley Street and the Bus Station areas. Shops in the city centre have seen an increase in theft, and recent surveys stated ASB and groups of people hanging around as the top concern for people visiting the city centre. We are working in partnership with the Local Authority.

The order prevents the gathering of **3 or more people**. If this happens, an officer from West Midlands Police or the Council Officers may request that the group leave the area. This is if they are **suspected** to be causing or likely to be causing nuisance or disorder, or harassment, alarm and distress to anybody. Once that person or group is asked to leave then:

- They cannot remain in that restricted area
- They need to leave immediately
- Not allowed to return to that area within 24 hours

Face coverings are not permitted within the identified area. Where face coverings are being used to disguise identity then people can be ordered to remove the face covering (examples items like balaclavas, facemasks, scarf, snood or cap). **The order would not discriminate against those who legitimately wear a face covering for medical reasons or wear face coverings for religious purposes such as a burka.**

Where the prohibitions are breached once, officers may issue a warning and contact a parent or guardian where the individual/s are under 18 years old.

If the prohibitions are breached on a second occasion this can result in a referring the person/people to the ASB Team or to other partners for a positive outcome.

If a breach more serious or is continuous, this can result in a fixed penalty fine, criminal charges and/or considerations of a Criminal Behaviour Order or Injunction

This order will be in force for a period of three years and will expire in June 2027.

There is the ultimate aim to ensure that the people of the city feel safe and confident.

For further information about the operation of this order please visit the dedicated pages of the Council's Website: <https://www.Wolverhampton.gov.uk/city-centre-public-space-protection-order>

We hope that this information gives you a clear understanding of the order and the consequences of breaking the order.