



Woodrush High School

An Academy for Students Aged 11-18

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Our Ref: MHB/KMC

24th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

Knife Crime and Young People

You will be aware from the media coverage this week, there was an incident which involved a young boy tragically losing his life to knife crime.

Whilst this does not directly affect Woodrush High School, we know some families and students may have known the victim and his family. We also know the impact stretches far beyond the victim and perpetrator, affecting many families and communities who want to feel safe to work, travel and live in the local area.

As a school we will always support our young people when tragedy occurs. Over the coming days and weeks, we will be offering a drop-in service in the Liberty Suite during lunchtimes for any student who would like any additional support following this tragic incident. We will also be talking to students during character development sessions next week.

The school works closely with the police, local and national agencies to support young people to have the skills to avoid the consequences of knife crime. Topics such as personal safety, county lines, knife and gang related crimes are an integral part of our PSHE curriculum. We also invite external organisations and charities to deliver assemblies and workshops on these topics. An upcoming example of this is the Redditch youth offending team who will be delivering assemblies on 4th February 2025.

We understand as parents and carers, that this may cause concerns about the safety of your child when out in our local community. Therefore, we would encourage you to think about raising this issue with your family. Some websites providing guidance and advice are listed at the end of this letter. We also encourage you to learn about the potential risks to children and young people that knife carrying brings.

Headteacher: Mr J Barber, BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH
Deputy Headteacher(s): Mr D Monk, BSc (Hons), PGCE, NPQH; Mrs M Holtom-Brown, BA (Hons), GTTP; Mr I Wright, BA (Hons), PGCE
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Key effects and facts associated with knife crime in England:

- In the majority of cases the victims are young males
- Victims are often unwilling to engage as they do not wish to be seen to be speaking with the police
- Victims and witnesses fear revenge attacks
- Research has shown that individuals carrying a knife are more likely to become a victim of crime
- We know that not all knife crime offences are linked to gang activity. From those young people working with us, it is clear some feel the need to carry knives for other reasons which may include protection, because of others carrying knives, peer pressure, or to feel they have respect, power or control

Information and Resources

<http://noknivesbetterlives.com/>

It includes guidance about how to raise this issue and talk to your child.

[LifeOrKnife | West Midlands Police](#)

You could also look at the West Midlands police website which provides further advice and guidance.

If you need help or support in relation to concerns about your child or young person you can call Family Lives (formerly Parentline) on 08000 28 22 23 and make your child aware of the support available at Childline on 0800 1111.

Finally, and most importantly, if you have any concerns or information relating to knife crime, please do not hesitate to contact the school or the police if there is an imminent threat to others in your community.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Holtom-Brown
Deputy Headteacher