



Dear Parents/Carers

As part of an on-going partnership campaign against knife crime, police and secondary schools in the area are committed to working together to protect our young people from knives and other weapons.

We will be using a range of strategies, including educational inputs, targeted mentoring and in-school knife arches, to ensure that students are well-informed about the consequences of carrying weapons and identify those that may continue to do so.

It is important that the police, schools and families work together to protect children and communities. Parents have a vital role to play and must talk to children about the dangers of carrying weapons.

Schools are required by law to report to the Police, any instances of a pupil bringing a knife into school. The consequences of being found in possession of a knife are serious and long lasting affecting education, employment and travel opportunities, but most crucially, life.

Some young people carry weapons because they feel it will provide protection or increase the respect they are given by their friends, but the sad fact is that they are more likely to become victims of serious violence.

Parents should also be aware that girls sometimes carry or store weapons for their boyfriends or other male friends because they believe they are less likely to be stopped by the police. Their reasons are often misguided loyalty or love, but it is still a crime if they are caught carrying a knife or other weapon.

#### WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE CONCERNED

If you have any concerns about your child or their friends carrying a weapon, speak to them calmly and explain the risks and consequences. If you feel they aren't listening, please contact (school to insert name) at school to talk through your concerns and plan a way forward together.

Please be assured that this is not about criminalising your child, but securing the right support to keep them and others safe from harm.

If your child makes you aware of concerns they might have about other young people in school or the community, you can make a report to the police directly by calling 101. Alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

If a crime is taking place or a life is in danger, call 999 immediately.

#### SCHOOL POLICY FOR WEAPONS POSSESSION

It is essential that we work together to reduce the chances of children bringing a weapon to school. Ours, like most other schools, will..... found to be carrying a knife, both on and off the school premises, and the police will be informed. (SCHOOL TO UPDATE ACCORDING TO POLICY)

THE POLICE RESPONSE TO WEAPONS POSSESSION

Carrying an offensive weapon or carrying a bladed/sharply pointed article in a public place, including on school premises, without good reason are criminal offences.

Offensive weapons can include knives, knuckle-dusters, broken bottles or tools such as spanners and hammers if they are intended by the person carrying them to cause injury to a person. Where young people are involved in crime, the police will, wherever possible, try to avoid criminalising them and will speak with the young person, their parents, and also seek the views of the headteacher before making a decision as to the best way to deal with an offence. However, **when a weapon is involved, the most likely result will be a charge and a court appearance.**

If you would like to discuss in more detail in the meantime, please contact the school.

Yours faithfully,



VEMaginnis.

Associate Headteacher  
Finham Park School



Chief Superintendent  
West Midlands Police