



Barr Beacon School  
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Dear Parents/ Carers

West Midlands Police are committed to working together with schools to protect young people from becoming a victim of knife crime. As part of #Sceptre week (an intensive week of action in your local area around knife crime and serious youth violence), it's important you and your children know the law. Take some time to have a conversation with your child around the topic of knife crime.

**Here are some key points to guide you:**

- It's not true that most people carry a knife. Data shows 99% of people don't carry a knife.
- Knife crime is a crime involving a knife or sharp object. This includes:
  - Carrying a knife
  - Owning a banned knife
  - Trying to buy a knife if you are under 18
  - Threatening, injuring or fatally wounding someone with a knife
  - You are more likely to be hurt or injured if you carry a knife
  - Carrying a knife could mean up to 5 years in prison, even if it is not used
  - It's illegal to carry a knife, unless you have a legitimate reason
  - Self-protection is not a reasonable excuse for carrying an offensive weapon
  - The police can stop and search anyone they think is carrying a weapon
  - Carrying a knife can mean four years in prison, even if you don't use it
  - If you have been a victim of knife crime, it's really important that you talk to a parent/guardian, an adult you trust or report it to the Police

As part of #Sceptre and the ongoing campaign, the Police are being supported by Sarah Barry, the mother of Jack who lost his life in 2021 from a knife fight. Please take the time to hear her story and listen to her advice here: <https://youtu.be/n5dw-gAmZrU?si=z5ktqDV7rVvldEPk> This story highlights and raises further awareness of the devastating impact of knife carrying. Other useful websites and resources can be found on: <https://lifeorknife.west-midlands.police.uk/parents-and-carers/>



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## How to have THAT conversation with your child:

1. Find a quiet and comfortable time to chat.
2. They might be reluctant to talk to you. So open use a recent news event as a conversation starter.
3. Discuss knives and how you both feel about them being used – you're there to listen and support them.
4. Tell them even when they feel they don't have choices, they do.
5. Explain that knives do not give protection. Carrying one could be a prison sentence or getting hurt yourself.
6. Say the bravest thing to do is walk away from a dangerous situation.
7. Reassure them that most people do not carry knives.

If you are concerned about your child or a young person you know please reach out to the Safeguarding Lead – Mrs Saunders or your child's Head of House. You can also call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 for advice. To report knife carrying, exploitation, or violence call 101. In an emergency, or if it's happening now, call 999 immediately and ask for the Police. To discuss a concern anonymously you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Thank you for taking the time to discuss this important topic with your child to ensure we are keeping children safe.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Hibbs  
Headteacher  
Safeguarding Lead

Mrs S Saunders  
Deputy Headteacher/ Designated

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Deputy Headteacher/ Designated Safeguarding Lead  
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