

October 2018



Liverpool  
City Council

## Knife Crime Prevention

We are writing to parents/carers to update you and ask for your continued support in tackling the issues young people face around knife crime. This follows recent presentations to Headteachers' and discussion of these issues at the various Headteachers' association meetings.

You may be aware that knife crime has risen across the country. In Liverpool, in common with other big cities and towns, we have also had an increase including the tragic murders of a number of local young men in the past year- Sam Cook, Brandon Regan and Daniel Gee Jamieson.

We have joined with organisations throughout the city to tackle the issues from both an enforcement and prevention perspective. Initiatives have included developing specific knife crime programmes for offenders, issuing knife wands to city centre bars, carrying out test purchases with retailers and supporting education sessions in youth and community settings as well as using the #nomoreknives tag on social media to raise awareness of the impact of knife crime.

We have been working with all schools across the city, through their respective representative bodies, to develop a strategic approach to knife crime and ask for their support. Part of the approach will involve schools delivering information to young people about the consequences of knife crime through presentations in assemblies or participation in programmes provided by external providers. Schools police officers will also have access to mobile knife arches for use in secondary schools on days when these awareness raising initiatives are taking place.

We appreciate that some people may be concerned at their child receiving information about knife crime. This does not mean that there is an issue with knife crime in any particular school in the city. Rather it is part of a collective approach where we are all pulling together to tackle the issues, keep our young people safe and prevent further incidents. This is clearly about educating children to the dangers of carrying knives and will compliment the curriculum work that schools are already undertaking and developing further. Parents should be reassured that any work with children and young people will be in keeping with their age and development. In addition, we have provided schools with a 'frequently asked questions' document to help schools shape any queries they may have from parents or carers about the work they are doing.

Your continued support in this work is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Steve Reddy  
Director of Children's Services

Joe Anderson  
Mayor of Liverpool

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