

Dear Family,

September 2025

I hope you enjoyed the summer holidays, and the move from primary to secondary school is one that you have been looking forward to. Moving to secondary school is a big step - I know many 11-year-olds are excited about the move, whilst others are nervous. I also know that some parents and carers might be nervous too!

I am writing this letter as I am aware that some have questions about knife crime in schools. I hope to reassure you about the scale of the problem, what we are doing to prevent it, and how we respond to reports. I also hope to encourage your family to have a conversation about knife crime and I am sending you a comic book and leaflet which I hope will help you with this.

It is important to say that knife crime in schools is extremely rare, but, of course, that does not make it any less worrying. In recent years less than 2% of all knife-related crimes in South Yorkshire have happened in schools. Most of these relate to carrying a knife, not to one being used to threaten or cause harm.


However, preventing knife crime is a priority for schools, local authorities, and the police. We all want to keep our children and young people safe. We regularly speak to young people across South Yorkshire to understand why they may carry a knife, and to educate them about the potential consequences of doing this.

When knife crime is reported to South Yorkshire Police, we take the most appropriate course of action based on lots of information. Sometimes this is talking to a young person and helping them to access the right support, sometimes this involves arresting them. If we find a weapon, we will always seize it.

Most people who carry a knife never plan to use it - only carrying it because they mistakenly think it will protect them and their friends or that it will increase their social status. Together we need to change that mindset. We all have a role in preventing knife crime and yours could be as simple as a conversation.

Please consider having a conversation in a way which feels right for your family.

Yours faithfully,



Lauren Poultney  
Chief Constable  
South Yorkshire Police



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