



Joseph Leckie Academy

September 21st 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am sure that you will be fully aware that knife crime and youth violence have become regular features in the news / media. Week after week we hear about another young life taken, a family heartbroken and a community shattered.

All over the country, young people are under threat because of individuals carrying knives. There has been a sharp rise in incidents in the West Midlands, which includes Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton, and Walsall.

As an Academy, our approach is to be proactive rather than reactive, to provide young people with the information they need to keep themselves safe and to reduce the risk of harm. Therefore, we will continue to work with West Midlands Police to undertake a mixture of education and enforcement activities to inform young people on the dangers and consequences of carrying knives. Police have visited the Academy on many occasions, they have delivered targeted workshops with guest speakers and deployed specialised equipment such as the knife arch.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know West Midlands Police will visit the Academy at random times throughout this Academic Year. They will bring the knife arch and the knife wands. The knife arch, scans people as they walk through and the knife wands, are hand-held metal detectors used by officers when carrying out searches. The knife wands are an effective tool and not intrusive.

The knife arch or police with knife wands will be placed in a designated corridor one class at a time will be asked to walk through the arch or the police will use the hand held detectors. It is likely the arch and police will move between buildings.

I appreciate that some students may find the experience upsetting however, it is essential we are pro-active to protect our students from the threat of knives/weapons while they are in the Academy as well as educating them about the dangers of carrying a weapon.

I hope that you will agree that our approach to keeping our students safe is one that you are able to support and that you will take the opportunity to discuss the intervention with your son or daughter and impress on him / her the dangers of carrying a knife/weapon and to ensure as much as you are able that they do not ever carry a knife/weapon and do not associate with anyone else who may do so.

Should you have any questions or need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a stylized "C".

Rachel Cook

Acting Principal

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