



HIGHFIELDS SCHOOL

Headteacher: G Tate BA (Hons)

BOUNDARY WAY, PENN, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV4 4NT

Telephone: 01902 556530 E-mail: enquiries@hswv.co.uk Website: www.hswv.co.uk

February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to inform you of some of the wider safeguarding initiatives which we as a school are involved with. These are being led by the Wolverhampton Police & Schools' Panel and West Midlands Police.

The first of these involves staff from schools across Wolverhampton meeting with Police Officers to discuss local issues, areas of concern and how we can work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The Police will share details of situations involving our students or of activities in the community that may have an impact on school life. The focus of this information sharing is to ensure schools are ready to support our own students and families to overcome any problems that they may be facing. This two-way communication is a positive mechanism to prevent minor incidents from escalating into something worse.

The second initiative is Operation Encompass which is a project in partnership with West Midlands Police to support any of our students who may have been exposed to or involved in incidents of domestic abuse. A nominated officer will liaise with myself as the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure that we are able to support our students and their families who may find themselves in such circumstances. This is a highly confidential programme that ensures our students and their families receive the support they need.

We are also participating in a programme that raises awareness of the dangers of carrying knives or other weapons, encouraging students to make positive choices and help to keep the wider community a safe place to be. It consists of a hard hitting and thought-provoking assembly presentation followed by an electronic screening of students by school staff in conjunction with colleagues from West Midlands Police. For obvious reasons we will not share dates of this electronic screening programme but the first of these sessions will take place during next half-term.

Whilst we know that the vast majority of young people would not even consider carrying knives, it is important to start the conversation about it as people can be affected in all sorts of ways by knife crime. Could I urge you to have discussions with your child(ren) to reinforce the dangers of carrying a weapon, but also to encourage them to talk to you or a trusted adult if they have concerns that someone they know is carrying a weapon and may be posing a danger to themselves and others.

We would also like to make you aware of the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV). This is a team of Police Officers, Mentors, Family Support workers, Education and Career Advisors who will work with those aged over 14 involved, or on the periphery of, group violence. It is the intention of CIRV to help and support those in the programme to make the changes that they need in order to live a life that is crime free and without danger so that no other families suffer the senseless impact of knife crime.



BEACON SCHOOL
IN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

LYKOS
WHERE EVERY CHILD MATTERS
Multi Academy Trust



If you are concerned about a person then you can refer them to CIRV via this website - [CIRV](#) or call them direct on 07776 225848.

Across Wolverhampton there are Knife Amnesty Bins where you can safely dispose of a weapon completely anonymously and without fear of repercussion. The locations are:

- St Peter's Collegiate Church, Lich Gates, Wolverhampton. WV1 1TY
- New Testament Church of God, Wednesfield Road, Heath Twon, Wolverhampton. WV10 0EN
- Church of St Chad and St Mark, Lime Street, Wolverhampton. WV3 0AN
- Tabernacle Baptist Church, Dunstall Road, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton. WV6 0NJ
- Morrisons Bilston, Black Country Route, Bilston, Wolverhampton. WV14 0DZ

Further details of additional information, resources and support with these issues can also be found on the following websites:

- [Life or Knife West Midlands Police](#)
- [Crime Stoppers](#)
- [Highfields Safeguarding](#)

These are emotive topics which can have a lasting impact on young lives but ones which are important that we discuss with our children. We firmly believe that by providing a support mechanism with our partner organisations, we can make sure that the emotional health and wellbeing of our students and their families is a priority.

Finally, a reminder that school finishes today for the half-term with students returning as normal on Monday 19th February 2024. We wish you all a lovely safe holiday.

Yours sincerely

MRS A BATES
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER & DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

