

Crewkerne and Ilminster Schools Partnership Supporting Our Children: A Message from Your Headteachers

Dear Parents and Carers,

As Headteachers across the Crewkerne and Ilminster Schools Partnership, we are united in our commitment to keeping our children safe and helping them make informed, confident choices. One area we want to raise awareness about is **knife crime**—a topic that can feel difficult to discuss, but one that is increasingly important.

While knife crime involving younger children is rare, some children—particularly those transitioning to secondary school—may find themselves in situations where they feel scared, pressured, or unsure. It's vital to understand that **most children who carry knives do not do so to hurt others**, but because they feel vulnerable or want to fit in.

We want to encourage **open, non-judgemental conversations** between parents, carers, and children about the risks and consequences of carrying knives. The **Ben Kinsella Trust** has produced a helpful guide (attached) with practical advice on how to approach these conversations. It includes tips on spotting signs, understanding motivations, and knowing what to say.

Local Statistics (July 2024 – July 2025)

- In Somerset, **67 incidents** involved children under 18 as offenders.
- **45 incidents** involved children under 18 as victims.
- **Knife possession** was the most common offence.
- **Personal robbery** was the most common crime experienced by victims.

These numbers represent a small proportion of children, but they highlight the importance of staying vigilant and talking early.

What You Can Say

- Reassure your child that **most young people do not carry knives**.
- Emphasise that **carrying a knife increases the risk of being hurt**.
- Let them know that **walking away is the bravest and safest choice** if someone shows a knife.
- Remind them that they can always talk to you or another trusted adult.

😊 Support and Reporting

If you're concerned about a child or young person, support is available:

⚠️ If someone is at immediate risk, please call 999.

- **Somerset Direct:**
 - 📞 0300 123 2224
 - 🌐 www.somerset.gov.uk
- **Crimestoppers** (anonymous reporting):
 - 📞 0800 555111
 - 🌐 www.crimestoppers-uk.org
- **Fearless.org** (for young people):
 - 🌐 www.crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless
- **Kooth** (online mental health support):
 - 🌐 www.kooth.com
- **Early Intervention Team & Violence Reduction Partnership:**
Working locally to support children at risk with a trauma-informed, child-centred approach.
- **Lifskills Centre, Bristol:**
Offers interactive knife crime scenarios for Year 6 pupils to help them understand consequences and make safer decisions.

Together, we can help our children feel safe, supported, and empowered to make positive choices. Thank you for being part of this important conversation.

Warm regards,

The Headteachers of the Crewkerne and Ilminster Schools Partnership



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