



Dear parent/carer

I am Lindsey Butterfield, Assistant Chief Constable at South Yorkshire Police. I am writing to you following the tragedy at All Saints Catholic High School in Sheffield, where 15-year-old pupil Harvey Willgoose was fatally stabbed.

As a police officer, and also as a parent, my heart goes out to Harvey's family and all those affected by this devastating incident. I know the concern and distress this will cause to our wider communities in South Yorkshire, particularly among families with teenagers and young children.

It is likely the recent events will spark conversations and questions at home about knife crime. These may be difficult, but are crucial conversations to have if we are to change perspectives around knife carrying and knife crime.

Perhaps your child has spoken about feeling scared or fearful of knife crime in the wake of what has happened, or maybe you are worried your son or daughter is being pressured into dangerous situations. There is advice and support available for you and your family, as you navigate through this.

Further advice and support is available from places including:

Knives Take Lives:
www.knivesstakelives.co.uk

Victim Support:
www.victimsupport.org.uk

Childline:
www.childline.org.uk

If you have concerns in your local communities about knife crime, please don't hesitate to speak to your local neighbourhood policing teams. You can find the details of your local officers by visiting the South Yorkshire Police website – www.southyorkshire.police.uk – and entering your postcode or address into the 'Find your area' box on the homepage.

I know that not everyone feels safe or comfortable talking to the police. **If you have information that you'd like to pass on anonymously, visit:**

Crimestoppers:
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Fearless:
www.fearless.org

The attached short information leaflet gives advice on how to approach a conversation with your child about knife crime.

We know young people who carry knives wrongly believe it is normal or necessary, either for their own protection or to gain status with their peers. But it's important to know that 99.75 per cent of people in South Yorkshire don't carry a knife.

Alongside our partners, we are here for all our communities across Sheffield, Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley to provide reassurance and support at this very sad time. Let's work together to tackle the fears and realities of knife crime and keep our young people safe.

ACC Lindsey Butterfield
South Yorkshire Police