

5th December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, safeguarding is our number one priority here at Rockwood Academy. I wanted to let you know how we are responding to national concerns about knife crime.

We have a positive, ongoing relationship with the police and I am pleased that PC Stringer, our Community Liaison Officer, will be in school on Monday 8th December to conduct knife arch operations with students, in an effort to demonstrate the importance of keeping safe and never be tempted to carry prohibited items.

We cover topics such as gangs and weapons in our personal development time, to educate our students and provide them with the information they need to keep themselves safe and to reduce their risk of harm. The value of respect is also embedded in all aspects of school life.

We know that some young people within the local area may incorrectly believe they need to carry a knife or other weapon for their own safety. This is wrong and if we find any student in possession of a weapon, we will contact the police immediately. While these instances are extremely rare, we do conduct searches and engage all preventative measures in school when required to deter this kind of behaviour. Your support in talking to your child about this is appreciated.

If they are ever worried, there are a number of people students can speak to in confidence, such as their Form Tutor, Year Group Coordinator, our Designated Safeguarding Leads, or indeed any other member of staff. You can also contact any one of us to raise any issues or concerns.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Kind regards.

Mr S Hetherington
Assistant Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead