

Safeguarding Newsletter

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WELCOME

to the last safeguarding newsletter of 2023. In this issue I will be sharing information about ...As always if you have any concerns about safeguarding issues in this bulletin you can contact me at Tapton School.

Kath Tabari

SUPPORTING LGBTQ+ CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ONLINE

[Advice for parents and carers to help LGBTQ+ children and young people stay safe online.](#)

VIRAL TIKTOK CHALLENGES

[TikTok](#) challenges typically involve people recording themselves doing something difficult, which they share online to encourage others to repeat. While the majority are fun and safe, some challenges promote harmful behaviours and pose a risk of serious injury.

Our children may not have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse all situations yet, meaning they may need more information and guidance deciding which challenges are safe and which are likely not.

WHAT CAN PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND SCHOOL STAFF DO?

Having open conversations with teenagers about the possible risks of online challenges is very important.

Show that you are open to listening, talking and learning with them. Help them to spot potential risks, to consider consequences (including the possibility that they or others could get hurt) and to make safe choices. The four-step process of **STOP, THINK, DECIDE and ACT** is a simple and effective way to get teenagers to think about risk.

OPEN WATER SWIMMING

Heading to the coast or out on the water is a great way to have fun and stay active. But, if you're not careful, it's a lot easier to get into trouble in the water than you might think. Whether you're swapping the swimming pool for open water or just enjoying a quick dip, this guide from the [RNLI](#) will show you how you can stay safe and make the most of your time in the water.

Before you go

Going for a swim in cold, open water can be exhilarating, but it's not without risk. Always arrange to go with a buddy. Open water swimming is much more fun with someone else, and you can look out for each other.

Float to live

Entering water under 15°C can seriously impact your ability to breathe and move. If you get into the water too quickly or fall in unexpectedly, you may experience cold water shock. If this happens, fight your instinct to swim. Relax and float on your back until you can control your breathing and the shock passes. Then you can call for help.

When open water swimming, you might get tired. Roll on to your back to rest and hold on to something that floats, like your tow float. Then you can signal for help if needed.

KNIFE CRIME

It's no secret that knife crime allied to gang culture presents a huge threat to young people, our schools and our communities. The BBC reports that figures show more than 100 serious knife crimes are committed every week in Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire. Campaigners claimed carrying a weapon had become as "normalised" among young people as using a mobile phone.

In May this year South Yorkshire Police carried out a week of 'intensive action' to tackle knife crime, as part of a national policing initiative entitled Operation Sceptre. It saw the force carry out a range of activities including 'targeted operations, engagement and education to reassure young people they are safer not carrying knives, and to walk away from harm'.

South Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Dr Alan Billings told the Star newspaper: "Knife crime has a devastating impact not only on the immediate victims and their families but also on our communities more broadly. It causes people to feel less safe. This is why tackling it is a key part of my ambition. I especially want to help young people to realise that carrying a knife does not make them any safer and may well lead them quite quickly into trouble."

[South Yorkshire Police](#) work hard to reduce knife crime and have dedicated teams working to disrupt criminal activity and remove weapons from our streets.

Their local neighbourhood teams work with the community to locate and seize weapons, make arrests for possession of knives and other banned weapons and disrupt the drug supply network. They work closely with schools and community groups to educate children about the dangers of carrying knives and encourage parents and carers to speak to their children about the consequences of this.

[Knives Take Lives](#) is a Sheffield based campaign to educate young people on the consequences of carrying a knife. The organisation is funded by the SYP. You can find a number of resources on their website including this [Video](#)

Knife amnesty bins

There are knife amnesty bins in the following locations where you can dispose of any knives anonymously:

- Wolsley Road, Sharrow, Sheffield
- Birley Moor Road, Frencheville, Sheffield
- Devonshire Green (off Fitzwilliam Street), Sheffield city centre



What is knife crime?

A knife is classed as an offensive weapon. Knife crime includes any offence where a sharp instrument is used or possessed that would pierce the skin.

Knife crime includes:

- carrying a knife or trying to buy a knife if you are under 18
- threatening someone with a knife
- owning a banned knife
- injuring or murdering somebody with a knife
- intent to injure or harm somebody with a knife
- a robbery or burglary where a knife was used

Offensive Weapons Act 2019

The Offensive Weapons Act has changed.

Whilst it has always been an offence to carry a bladed article in a public place, it is now an offence to possess certain items such as knuckledusters, throwing stars and zombie knives, even in private.

What we mean by private is a place other than:

- a public place
- school premises
- further education premises, or
- a prison

This [guide](#), created by SYP details all the weapons that fall under this act.