

Dear Parents and Carers,

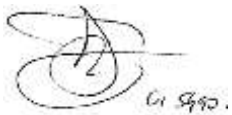
We are asking for your support in talking to the young people in your life about the dangers of carrying a knife or blade. While carrying a knife is not common — statistics show that 99% of young people aged 10 to 29 do not carry one — those who do put themselves and others at serious risk.

As part of the **#DitchTheBlade** multi-agency campaign, we want to make it clear that carrying a knife is never acceptable. Over the coming weeks, you may see increased coverage as we raise awareness of the risks and consequences of knife crime through education and community engagement.

Some young people carry a knife out of fear, believing it will keep them safe. In reality, it often increases their risk, as the weapon can be turned against them. Beyond the threat of serious injury, being caught with a knife can result in a criminal record, which can affect education, career prospects, and future opportunities. The impact of knife crime is far-reaching, affecting families, friends, and the wider community. This is why we are reaching out for your support.

It is also important to understand that any child, from any background, may feel pressured to carry a knife. If you are concerned about your child, or any young person you know, advice, real-life experiences, and links to support organisations are available on the Staffordshire Police website: www.staffordshire.police.uk/ditchtheblade

The overwhelming majority of young people will never carry a knife or be affected by knife crime. However, by openly addressing this issue and encouraging conversations at home, we can work together to ensure young people stay safe. With your support, we can collectively make a real difference.



Chief Insp David Barrow

**Commander
Stoke South Local Policing Team**