

All Schools in London

24 October 2017

MOPAC15092017- D1268

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to you regarding the recent work that the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, alongside the Metropolitan Police Service, has been doing to drive down knife crime across the capital. Knife crime is a key priority for the Mayor and the Metropolitan police.

Following extensive consultation with stakeholders, including hundreds of young people, the Mayor's Knife Crime Strategy was launched in June 2017. It seeks to provide a demonstrable and long lasting impact for our most disproportionately affected communities and young people.

Protecting and educating young people is a key strand within the Strategy, and we recognise that schools and communities play a vital role in keeping children and young people safe and school leaders endeavour to make their schools safe as possible.

To assist in this we wanted to remind you of the offer of access of a knife screening wand on a loan basis.

Each Safer Schools Officer will have access to a wand. If you already have access to a Safer Schools officers, then please go through this route to access a knife screening wand. If not then an expression of interest can be sent to Knifescreeingwands@mopac.london.gov.uk . This request will be managed by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.

An overview of the process is attached with this letter.

Safer Schools Officers play an integral role in schools supporting efforts to reduce the impact of knife crime through enforcement, intervention and preventative work. They will be your point of contact providing knife screening wands, on a loan basis, for your use. They will also provide advice on usage and be able to direct you to guidance and protocols. For additional support schools can also sign up to a Safer Schools Partnership.

The aims of the Safer Schools Partnerships are:

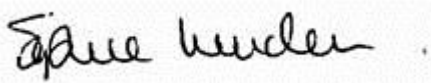
- ✓ Positive engagement to build trust and confidence between the school community and the police
- ✓ Improve the safety and enhance safeguarding of the school community
- ✓ Prevention – help for young people to deal with the risk of becoming victims and support those who are., creating a safe learning environment
- ✓ Early intervention and diversion for all young people identified as vulnerable.

Should schools require further information on Safer Schools Partnerships please email your initial interest here Knifescreeingwands@mopac.london.gov.uk


The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime will also support schools to provide a safe space for students by:-

- ✓ Increasing the number of Safer Schools Officers, and ensuring that every school has access to one.
- ✓ Lobbying the Department for Education and Ofsted to develop and include mandatory requirements for schools to take effective safeguarding measures against knife crime supporting both students and parents
- ✓ Working with schools and education partners to develop a Mayoral "Safer Schools" standard – allowing schools to evidence that they meet best practice around student safety
- ✓ Providing a prevention toolkit linked to the Mayors upcoming knife media campaign, supporting the integration of the message into the activities of schools and alternative educational providers
- ✓ Working with the MPS and partners to build greater evidence on the times and places at which young people are at the greatest risk of harm, such as transport hubs at school closing time, and ensuring that the police are on hand at those places.
- ✓ Hosting an event with education providers, education leaders, Principals, Academy Trust Chairs, board members and Governmental bodies to better understand their needs and agree a plan of action to help tackle knife crime.

We look forward to working with you to drive down knife crime and make a safer space for students.



Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing And Crime



Craig Mackey
Deputy Commissioner

Attached

Accessing Knife Wands – A short overview of the process

Accessing Knife Wands – A Short overview of the process

As part of the Mayor's Knife Crime Strategy the Mayor's office for Policing and Crime will support schools to provide a safe space for students in a number of ways including:

- ✓ Offering the use of metal detecting knife wands

Schools that **do not** belong to a Safer Schools Partnership (SSP) or have access to a Safer Schools Officer (SSO) may seek access to a knife wand on a loan basis. In this instance they should:-

1. Email their Expression of Interest requesting the loan of a knife wand to Knifescreeingwands@mopac.london.gov.uk The request will be actioned in 10 working days.
2. A Safer Schools officer will contact the school, provide a knife wand and agree with the school the loan period. This will be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 months. There is no limit on the number of time a school can loan a knife wand.
3. The SSO will provide a loan agreement, which the School must complete and sign before the knife wand is provided.
4. The SSO will also provide the school with an outcomes sheet. Schools are requested that this is completed at the end of the loan period. The completed outcome sheet should be return by the school to Knifescreeingwands@mopac.london.gov.uk

For Schools that do belong to a Safer Schools Partnership or have a Safer Schools Officer, access to a knife wand should be arranged through their dedicated SSO. These Schools will also be required to complete an outcomes sheet.