The Sutton Academy
Together Students Achieve
Principal: Ms L Gobin

18 November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may be aware of reports of an incident involving a knife at a private gathering over the weekend, away from the academy, where some of our students were present. I want to reassure you that we are aware of the reported incident and are taking it very seriously. **The safety and wellbeing of our students will always be our highest priority.** I can also reassure you that no one was physically injured during the incident and the police are involved. We recognise that those students present may have found the experience distressing and we are offering support to those students who may have been affected.

I appreciate that reports of this nature can cause concern for families. While we are unable to share details about individual students, please be assured that we are addressing the matter with the care and seriousness it requires.

Alongside this, we are taking a coordinated approach with students, staff and families to reinforce the risks and consequences of carrying a knife and help young people understand how to keep themselves safe. Assemblies have already taken place, and we will build on these messages in PSHE lessons through discussions and scenarios exploring peer pressure, recognising unsafe situations, leaving safely and seeking help. We will also reinforce how students can report concerns to a trusted adult or through the academy's anonymous reporting system. Staff have received training to support our response, and we would appreciate families continuing these conversations at home.

We would appreciate your support in continuing these conversations at home and encouraging your child to share any concerns with us. We would also encourage parents and carers to read the guidance produced by the Youth Justice Board following a recommendation from the Southport Inquiry, available on the academy website LINK. This information can help you talk with your child about the dangers of carrying a knife, recognising concerns and seeking support.


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SAFEGUARDING GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Worried your child has a knife or weapon?

Act early. Asking for help can keep your child and others safe.

Immediate danger
Call 999
Move to safety. Call if someone is threatened, a weapon may be used, a crime is happening, or your child is leaving or has left with the weapon.

No immediate danger
Call 101
If you find a weapon or think your child has one, tell the police. Ask what to do next and how to hand it in safely.

Avoid confrontation. Never try to take a weapon from your child.

Notice changes and act early
Look out for knives going missing at home, bullying, changes in friendships or missing school. These signs can have many causes. Take concerns seriously and ask for help.

Talk calmly when it's safe
Ask if your child feels frightened, threatened or pressured to carry something. Listen, explain that you're worried about their safety and ask what would help them feel safer.

Tell someone who can help
Contact the academy's safeguarding team and tell any professional already supporting your child. You can also ask the council's Early Help service for support. Report any new concern promptly, even if you've asked for help before.

Speak to The Sutton Academy
Call **01744 678859** and ask for the safeguarding team.
You can ask for an interpreter or information in a format you can use.

Read the full Youth Justice Board guidance on GOV.UK
The guidance was produced in response to Recommendation 66 of the Southport Inquiry.

If your child is worried about anything that they have seen or heard, please contact our safeguarding team directly so we can follow up and offer support.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to keep our students safe.

Yours faithfully

Ms L Gobin
Principal