

May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 Dorset Police Presentation: Firearms and Knives Education

Last week Year 10 attended a presentation delivered by the Dorset Police Firearms Team on the law, and the dangers and consequences of possessing and carrying offensive weapons. This is part of a nationwide campaign by all police forces in England aimed at engaging with young people and the wider community to reduce knife crime.

The attached document contains information regarding the content and aims of the presentation, as well as a link to more detailed guidance on the Offensive Weapons Act 2019.

Last week a national knife surrender campaign also encouraged people to check their homes for any knives that are no longer required, or offensive weapons, and provided information on the safe disposal of these items. This campaign has now passed. However, if you have any questions about the presentation, the safe disposal of items, or would like to discuss any aspect in more detail, please do get in touch using the email address below or by contacting the police directly using the email address in the attached document.

Yours sincerely

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FIREARMS AND KNIFE EDUCATION

Officers from Dorset police have attended your child's school and delivered an input to raise awareness around weapons. The presentation covered many aspects including parts of the law, the consequences of carrying or using such weapons and the police response to these incidents. An important part of this presentation was to highlight changes in legislation, which now makes possession of certain weapons, some of which shown below, **illegal to have in private**.

Further information and a full list of the items can be found here; [Offensive Weapons Act \(nbcc.police.uk\)](https://nbcc.police.uk). Please visit the link and look at the items so you know what can no longer be owned. It might have been something that was simply bought as a holiday souvenir or kept as a decorative item. Previously people have thought they could have most weapons within their own homes, only committing offences when taken outside, this is no longer the case.

A national knife surrender campaign is running between the 15th – 19th May 2023. If there are any knives that are no longer required or offensive weapons within your home, this is the time to dispose of them safely. Items can be disposed of at your local household recycling centres.

The point of the presentation and this email is not to cause alarm. It is part of our preventative work to help educate students, empowering them to make better choices.

Dorset is a safe place to live and we want to keep it that way.

If any questions or issues have been raised from the presentation, then please forward these back to the school or contact us via Surrender@dorset.pnn.police.uk

