



St Margaret's Church of England Academy

"Achievement by faith and work"

Principal: Mr S Brierley MA NPQH

10th March, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Knife Arch

Merseyside Police recently contacted us following the launch of their #BladeFree campaign earlier this year. #BladeFree aims to reduce levels of knife crime across the Merseyside region. Using funding from national government, and as part of the local and ongoing Operation Target, the police asked if we would be happy to host a knife arch in school to help raise awareness of the dangers of knives and knife crime.

We readily agreed to do so. As a result, all of our students were asked to pass through a knife arch on their way into school this morning. We had a number of police officers on site who operated the arch and ran security checks while talking to our students about knife crime, answering any questions they had and educating them about how to keep themselves safe in the community.

Several schools in the city have already had the police visit them with knife arches. I would like to stress that there is no suggestion that St Margaret's students are at any particular risk of being either victims or perpetrators of knife crime, and nor is there any suggestion that St Margaret's pupils are bringing knives into school; the presence of the knife arch in school today is, as I say, part of an ongoing police campaign to raise young people's awareness of these important issues.

If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Silverstone, our Designated Safeguarding Lead, or me.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley
Principal