

Safeguarding Bulletin

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COLLEGE



Safeguarding

Young people & vulnerable adults



Remember Dunblane and the Effects of Gun Crime

The twenty year anniversary of the Dunblane Massacre was on 13th March 2016. This month's bulletin focuses on the terrible crimes that were committed by Thomas Hamilton who was the gunman that killed sixteen children and one teacher at Dunblane Primary School on 13th March 1996. In response to this incident the Firearms Act 1997 was introduced which made private ownership of handguns illegal in Great Britain.

Gun crime in education settings is unfortunately an emerging issue, there have been many attacks in school in America, most recently on February 29th 2016 in Ohio where two students were injured.

Looking at the many gun related incidents in schools and particularly at the tragedy of the Dunblane Massacre it is easy to see why guns are so feared and so broadly campaigned against. There are many hobbies that involve the legal use of guns and many people choose to collect historical firearms and memorabilia however carrying these weapons or using them in public is not acceptable nor is it tolerated on college premises. There are many reasons for this including the public perception of such weapons, they may cause fear amongst students or the community, and the emotional affects associated with even legal guns being brought into an education setting, these emotional elements are derived from events such as the Dunblane Massacre.

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The www.safe.met.police.uk website provides us with the following information:

While there is no excuse to carry a weapon, people say they carry a knife or gun for different reasons:

- Protection
- Self defence
- Fear
- Peer pressure
- To gain respect, power or control

Not all people who carry weapons intend to use them. But if you're carrying a weapon and get into an argument, the situation is more likely to get out of hand and you are more likely to use it, potentially injuring someone or it could be used against you with fatal consequences.

Many people who carry knives or guns don't realise what they're getting themselves into:

- Imitation firearms such as BB guns are illegal and can seriously injure or scare people as much as a real gun. If you are caught you could still go to prison for carrying one in a public place.

Knife and gun crime can affect anyone, not just people in gangs:

- Innocent bystanders can get caught in the middle of other people's disputes and suffer trauma, serious injuries or worse
- There is no 'safe place' to stab or shoot someone. A wound in the arm or leg can still be life threatening. There have been cases where young people have died from wounds to the leg because their artery was severed. Both knives and guns have the potential to kill as well as injure.

Please remember if you have concerns regarding your own wellbeing or the wellbeing of another student then 'push the button!'