

## Survey Findings

We sent out a survey to schools in October 2024 and left this open for the remainder of the year. 147 responses came from primary, secondary post-16 and other settings. 99 from those with primary age, 42 with secondary age and 25 with post 16 pupils. There were 2 responses from AP and 1 from a PRU setting. There is some crossover with these responses as some settings are through schools.

Contributions came from Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) Leaders, headteachers, DSLs, special education needs coordinators, and other leaders. 85% of responses came from mainstream schools, and the remainder came from alternative provision settings, post-16, and special schools. Mat Leaders and School Leaders made up 65% percent of the responses with the rest coming from leads in areas such as behaviour, personal development PSHE or Safeguarding.

Although a small number of schools estimated that a small minority of pupils might carry a knife *in* school, it was lower than the estimated number that may carry a knife *outside* of school. When it came the aspects of knife crime that made people feel at risk. *'Incidents in the local community'* and *'Incidents involving our pupils outside of school'* scored most highly. Whilst some were concerned about *'National incidents'* and *'Incidents in school'*, these scored much lower. The lower perception of risk in schools correlated with responses to other questions. Over 70% of responses thought 0 pupils in their setting would carry a knife in school, whereas only 40% thought the same for their pupils outside of school. 13 people who responded reported that their setting settings who responded across South Yorkshire.

Over half of those who responded believed 10% or less of their pupils are worried or concerned around knife crime, with key stage 2 pupils being the most common age they believe pupils begin to show these concerns. This supports our assertion that schools should begin knife crime education in the upper years of key stage 2.

As expected, a significant majority of schools believe boys to be more concerned about knife crime than girls. Police data shows that from 2020 to 2024, 83% of known suspects were male and this was reflected in responses. 60% of respondents believe boys are more concerned about knife crime, whilst only 2% believe girls to be more concerned.

Those who do offer lessons around the topic begin to teach this in either key stage 2 or 3 with some exceptions. Some schools use external providers for this work, and this was almost exclusively from Crucial Crew<sup>i</sup> (run by South Yorkshire Police's Community Safety Team), who offer a wide range of PSHE topics, with a small section on knife crime, or from the police.

The two most popular types of PSHE delivery by settings who responded were timetabled lessons taught by non-specialist teachers and assemblies. Through speaking to students across South Yorkshire through student voice activities, we have consistently been told that pupils don't feel that assemblies are an effective way of teaching PSHE. 45% of respondents stated they didn't offer specific lessons on knife crime and prevention, and around 12% didn't know if they did or not. This further highlights the need for these resources Only 31% of schools were aware of the YEF research around knife crime education, which has been at the heart of the resources we have produced.