

6th November 2025

Thames Valley Police Knife Arch

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are reaching out to inform you of a regional policing initiative to raise awareness of knife crime. In collaboration with Thames Valley Police, we will be conducting a “knife arch” initiative at the school in the coming weeks. This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe and positive learning environment for everyone.

What is the Knife Arch Initiative?

The “knife arch” is a discreet screening process where students pass through a metal-detecting arch as they enter the school site. It is designed to deter and detect the carrying of any prohibited items, specifically knives or other dangerous objects. This measure is not in response to any specific incident at our school but is part of a wider effort to promote awareness of knife safety in schools across the UK.

Why Are We Doing This?

Our top priorities are the safety and security of our students and staff. The knife arch initiative is intended as a preventative measure, reinforcing a message of zero tolerance towards knife crime and reinforcing the importance of a safe school environment. This initiative is being carried out in partnership with our local police force, who support us in educating our students on this important issue. Their support & engagement in previous years has been very positive and this screening was planned before the start of this academic year as part of our personal development programme.

What You Need to Know

- **Screening Dates:** The screening will be conducted on two dates this term at both the front and back gates on different days.
- **Student Experience:** Students will walk through the arch briefly as they enter the school. Staff and police officers will be present to ensure the process is respectful and as unobtrusive as possible.
- **Privacy and Respect:** We understand the importance of maintaining a welcoming school atmosphere. The screening is conducted to ensure that it does not disrupt or draw unwanted attention to any individual.

Supporting Our Community

We aim to work with you, our parents and guardians, to educate our students about the dangers of knife crime and to build a community that promotes positive behaviours and decision-making. We encourage you to discuss the initiative with your child, emphasising the importance of a safe school community and the positive reasons behind this measure.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the knife arch initiative, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We are more than happy to provide further information and reassure you of our intentions behind implementing this initiative.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us create a safe and secure environment for all students.

Yours faithfully,
Princes Risborough School

