

Opening Boundaries continues its 'Tackling Knife Crime' campaign by teaming up with West Midlands Police and local primary schools.

Following the success of its 'Tackling Knife Crime' campaign in 2018 Opening Boundaries will now be working in partnership with the office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner along with Evolve Coaching, to deliver workshops at local primary schools with backing from the Home Office.

The sessions target young people aged 8-11 years old and will be held at five primary schools in the Dudley borough.

The workshops aim to open dialogue within the community and raise awareness of knife crime by using sports as a positive diversionary, they will include a presentation on staying safe with a practical sports session to end.

The sports session teaches young people skills such as teamwork, leadership, respect and discipline, all practical skills used in sports but can also be transferred to everyday life.

The campaign is run by Opening Boundaries with the aim of using various sports as a platform which can engage with people of all races, genders and classes.



Andy Peters, Young Persons Engagement Officer and Farah Ahmed delivering the first of the workshops at Greenfield Primary school

Farah Ahmed Project Manager for Opening Boundaries said;

"I am keen to demonstrate what we as a community can achieve when we come together. The power of sport helps to drive social change and allows us to live in a safer and more inclusive society".

The Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner, Ashley Bertie who has taken part in the workshops said:

"We can't solve the problem by police enforcement alone. We need to get the message across that our young people are too valuable to risk their lives by carrying a knife".

"They are our future musicians, artists, sportsmen and women, entrepreneurs and role models. We need them".

Peter Bravo, headteacher at Greenfield Primary school where the first workshop took place has pledged his support to the campaign and added:

"At Greenfield, we do our best to prepare all our children to become responsible, proactive citizens, who know the difference between right and wrong and are able to keep themselves safe. We are keen to support Farah and help her to highlight and tackle the growing problem of knife crime in partnership with the charity Opening Boundaries and West Midlands Police. It's important that our broader school community unites together to say 'No' to any form of violence, alerting our older pupils to the possibility of risk without scaring them unnecessarily."

Headteacher at Straits Primary Len Hazlehurst where the second of the workshops took place also said;

"At Straits we strive to develop our pupils as responsible citizens who know right from wrong, know how to stay safe and are positive and caring members of our community. The opportunities presented by the Opening Boundaries and West Midlands Police project to tackle Knife crime fit perfectly with our ongoing agenda to teach our pupils to stay safe. It is important to teach our pupils how to cope if they find themselves in risky situations without alarming them unnecessarily".



Pupils enjoying the visit by Ashley Bertie APCC for West Midlands Police.

Further workshops will take place at Jessons, Wrens Nest and Peters Hill Primary.

For further information on the work Opening Boundaries is doing you can visit their website at: www.openingboundaries.org

You can also see details of the workshops by visiting the West Midlands Police website on the following link:

<https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/news/news-2019/open-boundaries-tackling-knife-crime-workshop/>

