



Tuesday, 6th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Collective letter about Youth Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour

This is a collective letter from the Headteachers and Principals of all of the schools and academies listed overleaf.

It concerns the ongoing reports of violence and anti-social behaviour in the Worthing, Shoreham and Littlehampton areas. There have been a number of incidents in which young people and adults have been the victims of violent assaults, or other anti-social behaviour. This is known to have occurred in a variety of community locations including parks, trains, railway stations, car parks and town centres.

Thankfully, the problem of youth violence and anti-social behaviour involves a relatively small number of students and we recognise that the vast majority of young people are kind, respectful and law-abiding citizens. It is on this basis that we recognise that decisive action needs to be taken.

Our schools continue to do everything in our powers to keep our students safe. Part of this has been working with Sussex Police, Youth Justice, Children's Services, Early Help and the various Child Protection and Safeguarding Services of West Sussex. Two high-level strategy meetings have taken place since July and all agencies are committed to addressing the problem of youth violence and anti-social behaviour. Every child and adult deserves to live in a community where they feel safe and protected from harm.

Central to solving these problems is the need for all of us to work together, which is why we are asking you, as parents and carers, to support us in the next step of our strategy. Below are some practical suggestions that we would ask you read and discuss with your child.

These include:

- Ensuring that you know where your child is at all times. Recent incidents have occurred in local parks and close to train stations.
- Developing strategies to avoid situations where there are individuals who may cause harm to others.
- Speaking openly with your child about risk and encourage them to share with a trusted adult any worries/concerns they may have relating to community, in school or online behaviours.
- Ensure that if you or your child witnesses any worrying or criminal events that this is reported. You can call 999 if it's an emergency, or you can report non-emergency matters through to us by calling 101, or you can report incidents online via the Sussex Police website [Report | Sussex Police](#). If you are worried about reporting this, you can report concerns anonymously via Crimestoppers. The Crimestoppers number is 0800 555 111 and online reporting can be accessed by: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>. Another way for finding out more, or reporting crime, is through Fearless <https://www.fearless.org>
- Share with the police (and schools where relevant) any videos/images of incidents of criminal behaviour that your child may receive via social media. Again, this can be done anonymously by using the above link.

We know that by working together with you, our wider community, we will have a greater chance of making a positive impact. We remain fully committed to prioritising the safeguarding of all children and young people and are determined to see this situation changed for the better.

Thank you very much for your time in reading this letter and anticipated actions in support of helping to make our community safer for everyone.

If you have any questions, please direct these to the leadership team at your child's school.

Yours sincerely,

The Headteachers and Principals of:

- Bohunt School, Worthing
- Davison CE High School for Girls
- Durrington High School
- Steyning Grammar School
- Shoreham Academy
- Sir Robert Woodard Academy
- St Andrew's CE High School
- St Oscar Romero Catholic School
- The Angmering School
- The Littlehampton Academy
- Worthing High School