



**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

## **Headteachers report of the week**

**This week, a group of enthusiastic learners embarked on a unique journey of personal development and team building at the scenic Alderford Lake. With the tranquil waters as their backdrop and padel boards as their vessels, they discovered new strengths, built deeper connections, and embraced the power of collaboration.**

**Alderford Lake offers more than just beautiful views, it's a space designed for reflection, challenge and growth. The calm yet expansive setting provided the perfect environment for learners to step out of their comfort zones and into a shared experience of learning and adventure.**

**Far from just a fun activity, padel boarding became a metaphor for balance, resilience and trust. Learners navigated the water together, practicing communication, coordination and mutual support. Whether they were helping each other stay upright or cheering on a teammate trying something new, every moment was a lesson in teamwork.**

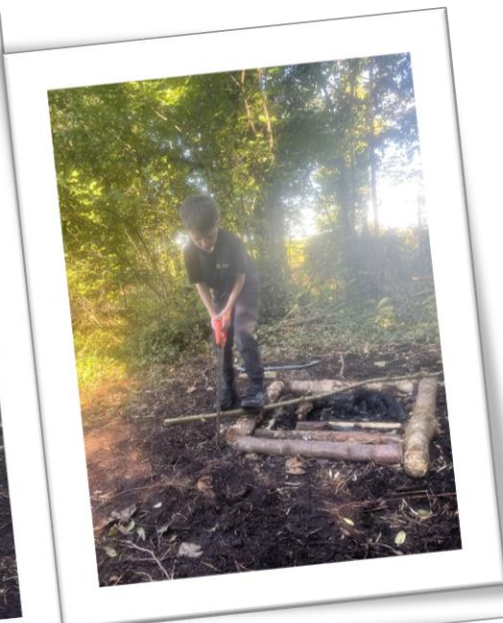
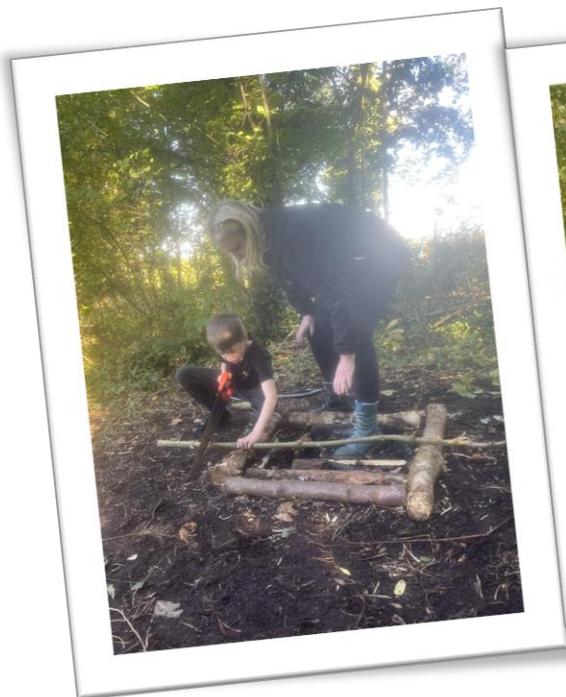
**Throughout the morning learners engaged in guided reflection sessions, exploring how the challenges on the lake mirrored their personal lives. Many spoke about gaining confidence, learning to rely on others and discovering leadership qualities they had not seen in themselves before.**

**The shared experience fostered a sense of unity and camaraderie that will carry forward into future projects and learning environments. By working together in an unfamiliar setting, learners-built trust and empathy, key ingredients for any successful team.**

**Best wishes**

**Jules**





New adventures  
taking shape.

At Forest School this week, our learners rolled up their sleeves and got creative! Using tools and teamwork, we began shaping an exciting new area that we can't wait to explore and enjoy. We also tried our hand at drilling holes in acorns—an early step in a brand-new project. Watch this space to see what grows from our hard work!

Sian – Acorns 1



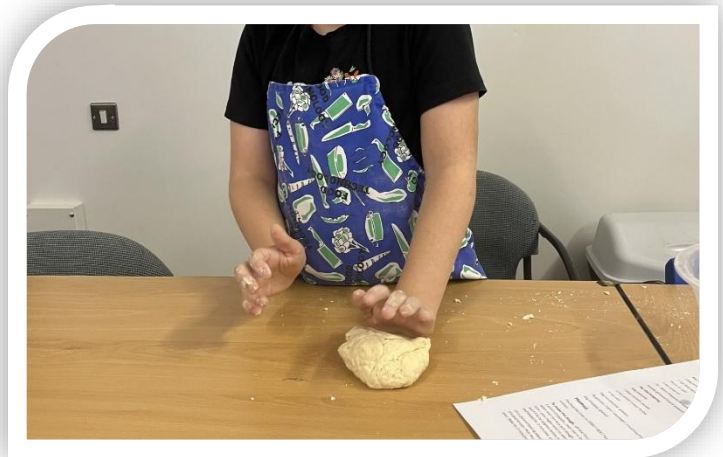


This week in acorns 1 we celebrated Kody's birthday. He had a very special cake request of coffee cake. Ceri made a delicious cappuccino cake which was enjoyed by all.

- Sian – Acorns 1

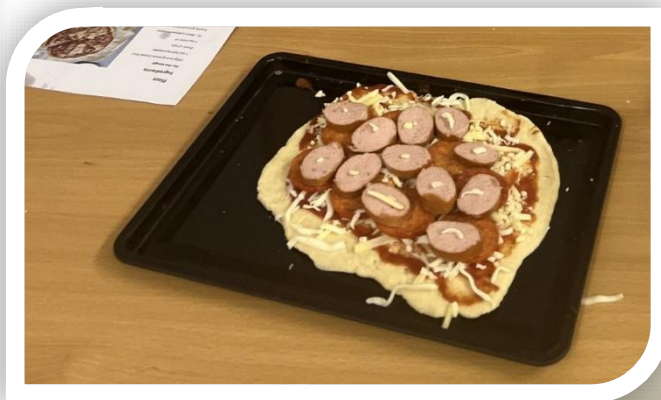


# Foods from around the world



This week in our cooking lessons, our learners travelled to Italy to make authentic pizza! From kneading dough to adding tasty toppings, everyone enjoyed creating (and eating) a slice of Italian culture together.

- Sian – Acorns 1



# Pizza



Saplings 3 made pizza dough and have developed their skills in making cheesy stuffed crust.

- Debbie J





Saplings 3 enjoyed searching for bugs and identifying them as part of the Woodlands Trust school activities. They were careful to return them safely to their habitat.

- Debbie J





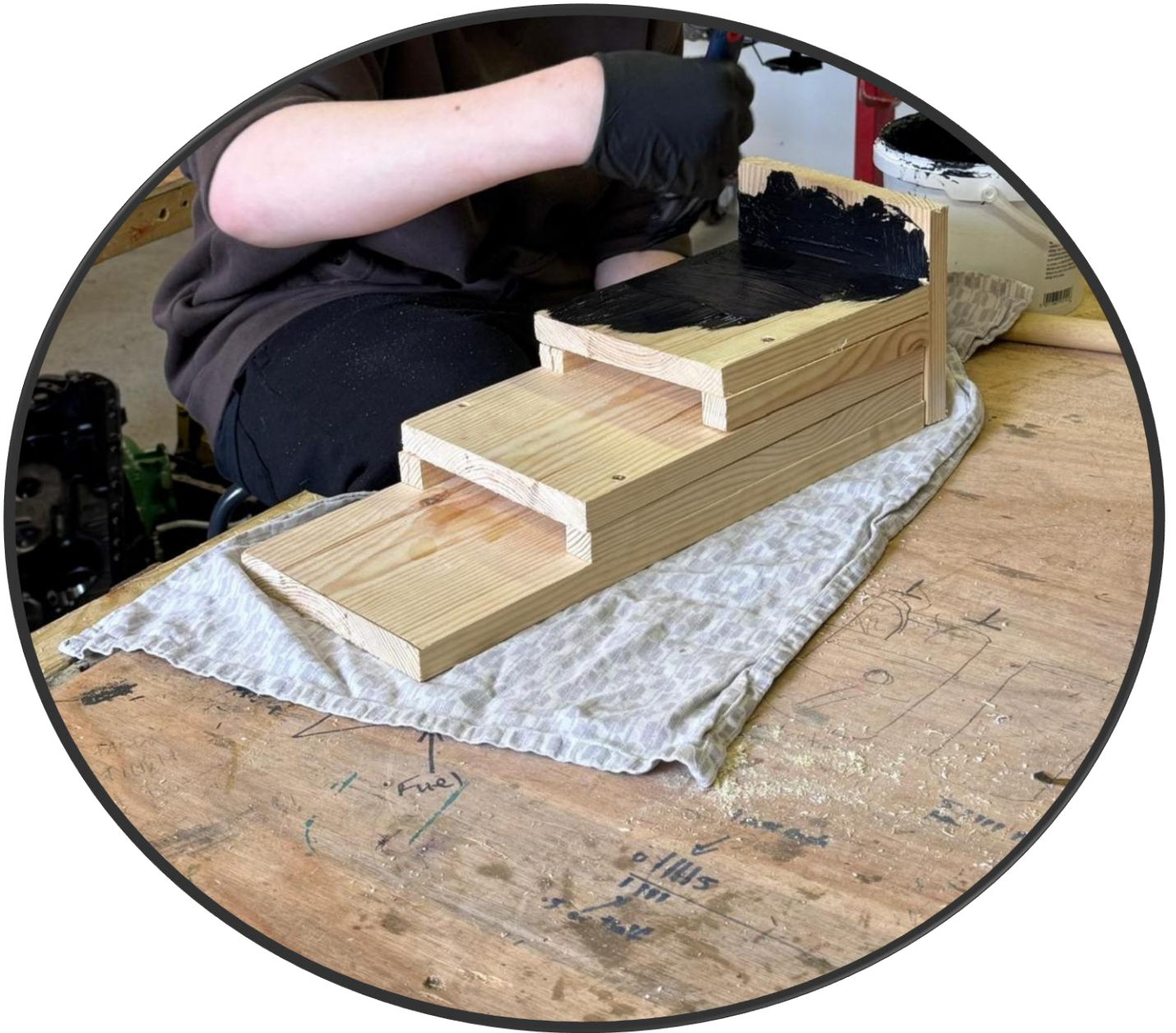
Shout out to Andy, Matthew and Xander for their amazing work on the bottle green house in the Sensory Green! Keep a look out to see this take shape over the next few weeks. Noah Ho has made a beautiful sign for the garden! – Well done, Noah!



# Vocational



Shout out to Thomas, great work  
in Vocational!  
Lovely to see you



Here is Thomas' finished work  
ready for painting.

A bat box

Great work Thomas!

As part of their Personal Development programme, learners took part in a team building morning.

They visited Alderford Lake near Whitchurch and took part in paddle sports activities







Are you a parent carer or a young person with special needs or learning differences (with or without a diagnosis)?

Here's where you can join us: Natter Matters sessions and family events

**Natter Matters**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30am-11.30am Wem Town Hall

**Stories and Crafts - Stories told by Jake Evans**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1.30pm-3.30pm Wem Town Hall

**Stories and Crafts - Stories told by Jake Evans**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1.30pm-3.30pm Wem Town Hall

**Natter Matters -Abi from PACC-Community Navigator Service**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am-11.30am  
Meeting Room, Wem Town Hall

**Natter Matters**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am-11.30am Wem Town Hall

**Swimming - Whitchurch Swimming Pool**

Date TBC (November), Sunday 11am-12pm

**Natter Matters**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Decemeber, 9.30am-11.30am Wem Town Hall

Please book on to events via the Wem SEN Hub Facebook Page

**WEM TOWN HALL  
SEN EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**



**Relaxed Screening of Hotel Transylvania**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1.30pm - Wem Town Hall

**Wem Town Hall Halloween Crafts SEN Session**

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 1pm-2pm

**Relaxed Screening of Polar Express (PJs Welcome)**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1.30pm, Wem Town Hall

*please book for these events directly with Wem Town Hall*

**You can also find us at**

Wem Market every Thursday until 9<sup>th</sup> October

Wem Car boot - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September  
9.00am-12.00pm Wem Recreational Ground

Quiet Space during  
Wem Christmas Lights and Festival  
1pm-6pm, Wem Town Hall



**Events coming in the  
New Year**

The Animal Family  
and  
Keystage Circus

As part of the Telford & Wrekin Start for Life initiative, there are FREE places available for **Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin** PARENTS/ PARENTS TO BE to attend a Baby and child **First Aid and Accident Prevention** class run by

**MINI FIRST AID + SHROPSHIRE**



**DRINKS AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED**

**FIND YOUR NEXT CLASS:**

[HTTP://bookwhen.com/mfashropshirecombined](http://bookwhen.com/mfashropshirecombined)



FREE GIFT PER FAMILY ATTENDING  
Terms and conditions apply





# ADDITIONAL NEEDS EVENING

Saturday 25th October 2025  
6:00pm – 8:00pm



- No music played (only essential announcements)
- Guest numbers capped to reduce queuing
- Friendly team on hand to assist guests and families
- Flotation devices available to use
- Ride slides with a carer
- All rides and attractions open (excluding the Nucleus and Outdoor Pool)



## AUTISM FRIENDLY

Tickets now available online  
Booking is essential

**Book online at:**

**[www.waterworld.co.uk/#upcoming](http://www.waterworld.co.uk/#upcoming)**

# Understanding your child

## From toddler to teen

- Would you like to know more about your child's development?
- Do you need help and support to understand your child's behaviour?
- Would you like a chance to meet with other parents and carers with children of a similar age?

Join us for our free face-to-face group  
Delivered by the BeeU and Parenting Team

**Understanding Your Child SEND**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025**

**9.45am to 11.45am**

**Woodlands School**

**Tilley Green, Wem, Shrewsbury SY4 5PJ**



All our groups run for 10 weeks  
from the start date excluding the  
School Holidays.

SEND groups are for parents/carers of  
Children who might have special  
educational needs and disabilities,  
no formal diagnosis is needed to  
attend the groups.

To book a place email  
[Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk)  
or call 01743 250950

Find more free online courses at  
[inourplace.co.uk/shropshire](http://inourplace.co.uk/shropshire)



# Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line

01743 250950

Mon - Thurs, 9.30am - 4.30pm  
Fri, 9.30am - 3.30pm

No judgment, just support.



# Coffee & chat



How can we help you?



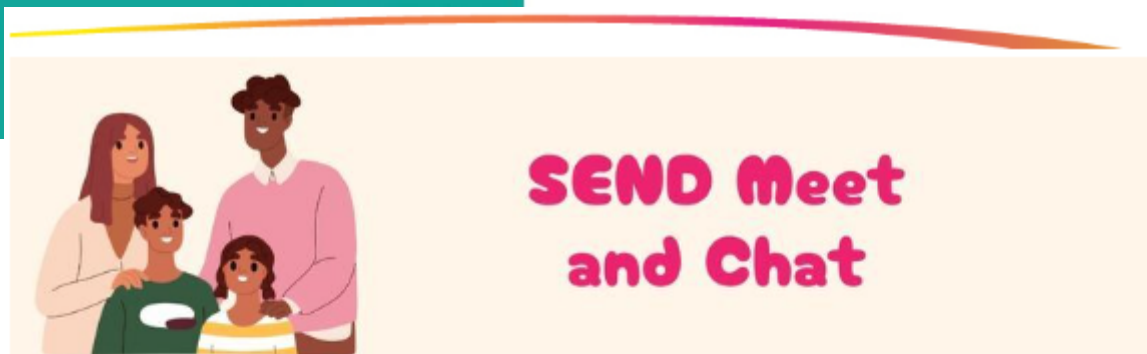
Free info, advice and support for your family  
[shropshire.gov.uk/early-help](https://shropshire.gov.uk/early-help)



You can get free information, advice and support on all aspects of family life, at our family drop-ins. Come along for a coffee and a chat, and find out how we can help you with things like:

- ♥ Family life
- ♥ Parenting support
- ♥ Domestic abuse support
- ♥ Money worries
- ♥ Housing support, and much more

There are drop-ins all over Shropshire find your nearest one here:  
<https://orlo.uk/Nt3iP>



## Autumn term SEND drop-ins

Our Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Meet and Chat drop-ins are back for the Autumn term.

SEND Meet and Chat sessions are open to anyone in Shropshire supporting a child with SEND — whether you're a parent carer, family member, or professional.

Come along to ask questions, get practical advice, and connect with professionals who understand your journey. You do not need to have an official diagnosis to access this service.

- Raven House, Market Drayton Family Hub, 129 Cheshire Street, TF9 3AH  
Tuesday 23 September 2025, 2pm-4pm
- Bridgnorth Library, Listley Street Bridgnorth, WV16 4AW  
Tuesday 14 October 2025, 1pm-3pm
- The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG  
Thursday 13 November 2025, 10am-12 noon
- Oswestry Library, Arthur Street, Oswestry, SY11 1JN  
Thursday 4 December 2025, 1pm-3pm

## Community hubs webpages promote wellbeing support for Shropshire



Shropshire Council and its partners have launched new webpages to highlight the community and family support on offer in hubs all over the county.

The community and family hubs are located in Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Market Drayton, Highley and Ludlow, with activities and guidance available to help families and residents stay healthy and connected.

There is a wide range of support on offer based on feedback from communities, from early help for families, domestic abuse support, help to stop smoking, information and housing and more, for all ages, as part of NHS integrated neighbourhood teams.

Whilst much of the support is already ongoing, the new webpages bring the services together to one online space, so people can easily search and find what they need.

[Find the pages and share with your communities.](#)



## Free CBT Courses

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin NHS Talking Therapies offers free access to digital Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and various courses to support mood and anxiety. These courses, run by trained psychological practitioners, use research-backed techniques to improve emotional wellbeing. They address issues like low mood, anxiety, intrusive thoughts, obsessive-compulsive difficulties, and trauma-related distress.

Courses are available in group settings with varying levels of participation. For those preferring self-paced learning, the Silvercloud digital CBT programme provides a private, supportive platform with online clinician assistance to help achieve personal goals.

**If you would like support with your mental health, you can make a self-referral by:**

- **Online:** Completing a self-referral form, or chat to our Limbic digital assistant via our website – [mpft.nhs.uk/stwtt](https://mpft.nhs.uk/stwtt)
- **Phone:** 0300 123 6020

# Woodlands Shout Outs



- Shout out to Corey who apologised to staff and completed level one functional skills in maths – Well done Corey!
- Shout out to Morgan for supporting learners – great work Morgan!
- Well done Tommy for completing your functional skills – Superstar!
- Shout out to Ollie C who came into school and had a great day – Lovely to see you in school Ollie!
- Michael wright has been very happy making pizza – Wow! Michael so nice to have you with us in school Michael!
- Bobby did so much English he needed a sleep – Super work, Bobby we are so proud of you!
- Corey supported learners to lesson – Well done supporting your peers Corey
- Thomas independently went to Vocational with Andy and engaged – Amazing work Thomas we are super proud of you!
- Kiara-Leigh went to her intervention and engaged in some learning – Well done Kiara!
- Zane has had a great week – Well done for doing your BEST!
- Lacey A has had a great time at the Grange on work experience – Great work Lacey!



## Headteacher Awards



- **Lacey A** for a fantastic effort at both the Grange and Reach
- **Romeo** for being so polite when staff were sorting out his functional skills maths exam
- **Zane** for engaging in all tasks despite distractions



## **Sending an Email to the Safeguarding Team**

**[safeguarding@wdl.mmat.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@wdl.mmat.co.uk)**

- If you have any worries Parents/Carers or Students, please email the above address.
- Students, you can use your school accounts or personal email addresses.

## **Why not follow us on Facebook**

**<https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandsShropshire/>**

**Or**

**Take a look at our website!**

**[www.woodlands.school](http://www.woodlands.school)**

**Or**

**Join the conversation - We love hearing from you!  
Share your thoughts, questions, and suggestions  
with us.**

**[rachel.bates@wdl.mmat.co.uk](mailto:rachel.bates@wdl.mmat.co.uk)**

**If you need to contact us out of normal school  
hours, please either email on the above address**

**or call Rachel Bates on **07967 763324****

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

### WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

### WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

### ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

Opportunity

Community

Wellbeing

Respect

UNCERTAINTY

CONFLICT

FEAR

### WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 36% don't feel safe walking the streets.

### WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

### WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.



### AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.



### HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.



### REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.



### Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: [benkinsella.org.uk](https://benkinsella.org.uk)



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence>