



# Guru Nanak Sikh Academy

Aspire ~ Acquire ~ Achieve

Founder: Sant Baba Amar Singh Ji

Chief Executive Officer: Mr Jaskamal S. Sidhu

20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parent

## RE: Safer Schools - Knife Crime Strategy

We are writing to you regarding the recent work that the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, alongside the Metropolitan Police Service, has been doing to drive down knife crime across the capital. Knife crime is a key priority for the Mayor and the Metropolitan Police. The Mayor's Knife Crime Strategy was launched in June 2017. It seeks to provide a demonstrable and long lasting impact for our most disproportionately affected communities and young people.

At GNSA, we work closely with our Safer Schools Officer to build community links with the Metropolitan Police and drive down the crime rate in the local area. Safer Schools Officers play an integral role in schools supporting efforts to reduce the impact of knife crime through enforcement, intervention and preventative work.

At some point in the next two terms, the Safer Schools Officer and other members of the Metropolitan Police will set up a knife arch at the front of GNSA. The purpose is to make sure that no student is in possession of any weapon when entering the school grounds and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students. **We have no concerns regarding knife crime at GNSA but it is purely a precautionary exercise to show our commitment to reducing knife crime across London with the Metropolitan Police.**

**We are fully aware that students who are baptised wear the Kirpan and allowances will be made for those students on the day. Those students will under no circumstances be asked to remove their Kirpan by the police or any members of staff.**

In addition, as part of our yearly cycle, we will be visited by the K9 Deployment Group (Working Drugs Sniffer Dog). This initiative has made a huge impact raising awareness and minimising the presence of drugs in and around schools and college premises around the UK. **Once again, this is not because we believe there is a concern but a chance for students to see a 'working dog' and how they operate and also ensure the school premises are free of illegal substances.**

Yours faithfully

Safeguarding Team  
GNSA Secondary