

Knife Crime Awareness Workshops – The Ben Kinsella Trust

Over the past couple of years, since the loss of our son Olly to knife crime, we have started to work with the charity, The Ben Kinsella Trust. The Ben Kinsella Trust <https://benkinsella.org.uk/> was set up when Ben was killed by knife crime age 16, in 2008. We feel a strong connection to Ben and his family and admire all that the Trust is achieving.

The Ben Kinsella Trust offer free, age appropriate, educational lesson plans that can be used by schools in their PSHE lessons. The Trust also offers an exhibition for school children, about the choices and consequences of knife crime.

The Trust is running a number of different, hard-hitting campaigns, this year, as it has been 15 years since they lost Ben. Although the Trust and others work hard to reduce knife crime, the data shows knife crime and homicide is on the increase and the victims are getting younger. In the year ending March 2022:

“Approximately 4 in 10 homicides were committed using a knife or sharp instrument (282 homicides); a 19% increase compared with the previous year, and the highest annual total since the Homicide Index began in 1946.... There were 69 homicides victims aged 13 to 19 years, of these, 51 were killed by a knife or sharp instrument.”

Source: Office for National Statistics.

We are writing to you to make you and your school community aware of the new online workshops being run by The Ben Kinsella Trust, “Exploitation, Gangs & Knife Crime Workshop.” The course is free of charge for parents and carers. The interactive workshops are on Zoom and comprise of two sessions, the trainers are fantastic, knowledgeable and approachable.

Led by experts from The Ben Kinsella Trust the workshops will cover a range of important topics, including the signs and effects of knife crime, how to talk to children about knife crime, and how to spot warning signs in young people who may be at risk of involvement in knife crime.

I can highly recommend it, as I went on it myself recently, I have shared Olly’s story including the impact of social media and its dangers, in session two. The workshops have been available for parents and carers within London and have been very successful. With our involvement, the Trust has agreed that all parents and carers, nationwide, need this information. Please click on the link for full details:

<https://benkinsella.org.uk/join-our-free-knife-crime-workshop-for-parents-and-carers/>



[Join Our Free Knife Crime Workshop for Parents and Carers | The Ben Kinsella Trust](https://benkinsella.org.uk/join-our-free-knife-crime-workshop-for-parents-and-carers/)

benkinsella.org.uk

The world our children live in, can be very unsafe, these workshops give us a chance to help support them. The workshops are free to join, but please make a charitable donation, if you can, towards The Ben Kinsella Trust’s great work.

We hope that parents and carers will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about knife crime and how they can help protect their children. Together, we can work towards a safer future for all young people.

Thank you.

Amanda and Stuart Stephens