



Roddy Burns
Chief Executive

Education and Social Care

Laurence Findlay
Corporate Director (Education and Social Care)
High Street, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1BX
Telephone: 01343 563530 Fax: 01343 563990
Email: laurence.findlay@moray.gov.uk
www.moray.gov.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer

I write to you in relation to recent media interest around incidences of weapons within schools across the north east of Scotland which has put the spotlight on this issue.

Police Scotland have dealt with three incidents involving the possession of knives in the Buckie, Elgin and Keith areas recently where four secondary school pupils have been reported as a result. Nobody has been injured as a result of these incidents.

Together with Police Scotland and neighbouring authorities, I wanted to reassure you of our commitment to working with you to ensure we all keep our young people and staff as safe as possible.

It is in all of our interests to keep young people and staff safe from harm and as an education authority we will continue to review current practices and procedures to ensure our combined actions help to reduce incidents.

Some of these incidents have occurred as a result of bullying and Moray Council has been proactive in developing anti-bullying actions in its schools.

We have been working with Respect Me Scotland to implement the Scottish Government's approach to anti-bullying for Scotland's children and young people.

Within each school we have comprehensive policies to ensure young people or parents can talk to staff about any issues which may be of concern.

Police Scotland is absolutely clear that taking a knife or any other potential weapon into a school is against the law and anyone caught doing this will be robustly dealt with.

Anyone with any information regarding instances of this kind should contact the school in the first instance or in an emergency contact the police.

Contd/We

We all know that the majority of our pupils are well-behaved. These incidents are rare and rest assured that when they do occur action is taken to deal with them swiftly and appropriately.

With your help we can all ensure young people are safe from harm.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Findlay', with a horizontal line underneath.

Laurence Findlay
Corporate Director (Education and Social Care)