



Briefing Note

Harvey Willgoose Case (2025)

February 2026



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SAFEGUARDING
MATTERS

Overview of the Case

On 3 February 2025, 15-year-old Harvey Willgoose was stabbed to death by another pupil, Mohammed Umar Khan, at All Saints Catholic High School, Sheffield. An independent review, commissioned by St Clare Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (SCCMAT), examined the events leading up to the murder and identified significant safeguarding and behaviour-management failures.

The full report has not been published, but the 10 recommendations have been released, and the family's legal team has summarised key findings.

What Went Wrong

The review highlights multiple systemic failures that created unmanaged risk:

Critical information was not transferred or read

- Khan moved from Silverdale School with 130 recorded incidents involving violence, gangs, weapons references and anger.
- Safeguarding and behaviour records were not requested before he started.
- When records were eventually transferred, no one read them due to unclear responsibility.

Intended behaviour and safety plans were not implemented

- A behaviour plan was meant to be in place on arrival.
- It was not enacted, leaving staff unaware of known risks.

Weapons-related concerns were handled inconsistently

October 2024: pupils reported Khan had carried a knife and brought a BB gun on a trip.

- A search was carried out, but no risk assessment, no safety plan, and incomplete records followed.

December 2024: an axe was found in his bag off-site.

- Police were informed, but no in-school follow-up occurred and this was described as a safeguarding failure.

Lack of clarity around roles and oversight

- No clear system for who monitors patterns of serious incidents.
- No senior sign-off on high-risk transfers.
- No coordinated approach to escalating concerns.

Missed opportunities to intervene

The family emphasised that:

- Khan asked for help, telling staff he had anger problems.
- Numerous “red flags” were visible but not acted upon.

Key Recommendations from the Review

The published recommendations for **schools** include:

- **Mandatory record-sharing** before any pupil transfer, with senior leader sign-off confirming full review.
- **Clear safeguarding and behaviour oversight**, including who monitors patterns of serious incidents.
- **A dedicated weapons policy**, with clear thresholds, actions and escalation routes.
- **Improved systems and training**, including:
 - Dedicated knives/weapons categories in recording systems
 - Staff training on government guidance for searching, screening and confiscation
 - Consistent recording and follow-up of all weapons-related concerns

For Local Authorities

A **city-wide support system** for pupils involved in, or at risk of, knife crime.

For the Department for Education

National guidance on responding to knife possession and reports of knife possession in schools.

Following on from this at HH: Safeguarding Matters I am asking schools to consider that they:

1. Ensure that schools get full records before a pupil starts, ensure they are read and any necessary plans or risk assessments implemented.

Question/Reflection

Do you ensure that the child and parent’s voice and the views of any other relevant stakeholder is included?

2. Ensure that the weapons policy is up to date and in line with all recent changes (completed by HH: Safeguarding Matters) and in line with any changes to the school site or newly introduced policies.

Question/Reflection

Do you ensure that staff understand how to apply it consistently?

3. Ensure that record keeping is up to date, factual and accurate and CPOMS categories reflect use of weapons.

Question/Reflection

Do you as DSL's use CPOMS data to highlight any patterns of concern?

4. Ensure that any weapons-related incident triggers:

- A risk assessment
- A safety plan
- Multi-agency communication

Question/Reflection

Do you record all discussions and actions taken and escalate appropriately?

5. Ensure that staff are appropriately trained and know how to recognise early indicators of risk, exercise professional curiosity and follow guidance on searching, screening and confiscation.

Question/Reflection

How do you quality assure this?

6. Ensure that pupils who are at risk are supported through:

- Early help pathways
- Mentoring and targeted interventions
- Multi-agency planning
- Trauma-informed approaches
- Clear reintegration and monitoring plans after incidents

Question/Reflection

How do you record their progress and voice?

7. Ensure that culture and leadership oversight is reviewed through regular reports to SLT and governors and review any incidents of weapon use.

Question/Reflection

How do you demonstrate the actioning of the findings?

The independent review into Harvey Willgoose's death highlights the importance of rigorous record-sharing, consistent weapons-response procedures, and proactive risk management. Every concern must be recorded, reviewed and followed up. If you are worried about a pupil's behaviour, safety or potential access to weapons, you must escalate immediately.