

# Knife Crime

Information for parents and carers

## The facts, the law, and how to make a report

Knife crime devastates the lives of victims and their families and brings misery and fear to our communities. We need to work together to ensure that everyone understands that carrying a knife can easily end in tragedy.

Individuals who carry a knife often say they do so out of fear and to protect themselves. We want people to know those who carry a knife or an offensive weapon are putting themselves at greater risk of being seriously injured or killed themselves.

**70% of young people attending A&E with stab wounds are injured by their own weapon/ knife.**

## What does the law say?

### Can I be stopped and searched?

Yes. A police officer can stop and search any person, or vehicle, where they have reasonable grounds to suspect they will find prohibited items, including offensive weapons such as knives.

### What are the consequences?

If you are found in possession of a knife (a pointed/bladed article), you could face a range of punishments, including up to 4 years in prison.

## Making a report

### What should I do if I think or know someone is carrying a knife?

- If you believe there is an immediate threat to life or if you have just seen someone carrying a knife, dial 999 and report it to the police.
- Advise your child that, if they suspect anyone of carrying a knife or an offensive weapon, they should tell a trusted adult. This could be a police officer, teacher, parent or guardian. When it isn't an emergency, police can be contacted on 101 [or a report can be made online.](#)

## If it isn't an emergency and you don't want to contact the police:

### [Crimestoppers](#)

This is an anonymous reporting service for anyone to give information relating to a crime. There is a phone helpline and an online reporting form. They do not ask for your personal information, and phone numbers/IP addresses cannot be tracked.

### [Fearless](#) (part of Crimestoppers)

This anonymous reporting service is specifically for 11–17-year-olds. The website also contains information about crime types, the [bystander approach](#), and support services for young people.

**CrimeStoppers.**



**Find out more - For further information, please visit the following: websites:**

[Knife crime | Crimestoppers](#)

[Why carry a weapon? - The Mix](#)

[Gun and knife crime | Childline](#)