



Dear Parents and Carers,

A message from West Midlands Police.

Police and schools across the West Midlands are committed to working together to protect our young people from becoming victims of knife crime, but to do this we need your help.

Being aware of the warning signs and understanding the importance of talking to your child about carrying weapons can significantly reduce knife crime, exploitation, antisocial behaviour and gang activity.

Your child might not be involved in knife crime or be around those who carry a knife, but it's important they understand the dangers and know how to report things they know to the police.

[How to have THAT conversation with your child:](#)

1. Find a quiet and comfortable time to chat.
2. They might be reluctant to talk to you. So open use a recent news event as a conversation starter.
3. Discuss knives and how you both feel about them being used – you're there to listen and support them.
4. Tell them even when they feel they don't have choices, they do.
5. Explain that knives do not give protection. Carrying one could be a prison sentence or getting hurt yourself.
6. Say the bravest thing to do is walk away from a dangerous situation.
7. Explore excuses for your children to walk away, e.g., picking up a little brother from school, running errands for their family, meeting a mate, or attending a sports club.
8. Reassure them that most people do not carry knives.

How we are protecting your children:

Police officers and specialist teams patrol 24/7 7 days a week. Knife crime is a priority for the force, and we have dedicated teams focused on tackling knife crime on our streets.

Next week (17-23 November) we will be doing a focused week of action to stop people carrying knives, bring knife crime offenders to justice, and increase reporting of knife carrying.

In your local area, you might also see...

- Police and community-led weapon sweeps in parks and open spaces. This aims to recover weapons hidden for use in offences.
- Test purchase operations and responsible retailer visits to ensure retailers are complying with the law on the sale of knives.
- A strong focus on the identification, arrest and management of offenders who use knives.
- Proactive police operations within key locations in the community to identify and tackle weapon related crime.
- School and college engagement to ensure students are informed of the law, risks and consequences of carrying knives. This is being supported within secondary schools and colleges with the delivery of random knife bar searches.

What to do if you are concerned about your child:

Speak to them calmly and explain the risks and consequences of carrying a knife.





You can visit <https://lifeorknife.west-midlands.police.uk/> to learn more.

You may wish to contact a member of the Pastoral Team at school if you feel your child isn't listening or is at risk. You can reach out your school's officers to seek advice. They can talk through your concerns and plan a way forward together.

Anyone can dispose of a knife discreetly and anonymously at a weapon surrender bin. See all locations here: <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/tackling-violence/weapon-surrender-bins/>

If you or child are aware that other young people in school or the community are carrying weapons, you should contact the police directly on 999 (emergency) or 101 (non-emergency). If a crime is taking place or a life is in danger, call 999 immediately.

Alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Thank you. West Midlands Police.

