

Knife crime: the essentials

Any child could carry a knife, but particularly those who are vulnerable in some way. Here's how you can help to keep your pupils safe from knife crime.

Use the '4 Rs' to persuade a pupil to be knife-free:

Reassurance:

- Knife crime is still uncommon, despite worrying statistics
- 99% of 10 to 29 year-olds **don't** carry knives
- To feel safer, they can do practical things instead like stay later at school or change their journey home
- You're there to help them. Explain how your school supports pupils to stay safe, including after school and off-site

Responsibility:

- Encourage them to take responsibility for themselves and others. It's not 'grassing' to report that someone is carrying a knife
- Urge them to tell you or another trusted adult if they know someone is carrying a knife
- They can also **report anonymously online** via [Fearless](#), [CrimeStoppers](#) or [Childline](#). Or call Childline (free) on **0800 1111**

Risks:

- Carrying a knife actually makes them more likely to be harmed
- It's **illegal to carry a knife in public** without good reason:
 - Self-defence is not 'good reason'
 - Police can stop and search anyone they believe has a knife
 - They could get a criminal record and up to 4 years in prison simply for carrying a knife, depending on their age
 - If they stab someone who dies, they'll face a life sentence in prison
- Having a criminal record could stop them from going to university, getting the job they want, or visiting places like the USA
- Stabbing someone **anywhere** on the body can be fatal

Resilience:

- Make them feel connected and a valued member of your school community
- Remind them that your school is a place of safety
- Help them identify a trusted adult who they can turn to
- Be empathetic, listen and give them impartial advice when they need it

Listen out for pupils using these slang terms

For knives:

- "Bora" or "borer"
- "Chete"
- "Ching"
- "Dipper"
- "Nank"
- "Rambo", "rams" or "ramsay"
- "Shank"
- "Skeng"
- "Sword"

For stabbing someone or being stabbed:

- "Bagging"
- "Cheffed (up)"
- "Dip" or "dipped"
- "Kweff" or "queff"
- "Kweng"
- "Nank"
- "Stab"

If a pupil tells you they've witnessed a knife-crime incident ...

Do:

- Listen. Be supportive. Take them seriously
- Treat it as a disclosure, and follow our child protection policy
- Let our DSL (or deputy) know as soon as possible

Don't:

- Interrogate them, or ask leading questions
- Promise confidentiality
- Signpost them elsewhere, until you've listened

If you hear of a knife-crime incident, on-site or off-site ...

- Let our DSL (or deputy) know **immediately**
- **Call 999**, if a pupil tells you that an incident is going to happen

Remember: for any safeguarding concern ...

- Always talk to our DSL (or deputy) as soon as possible
- **If a child is in immediate danger**, also contact children's social care immediately – and call the police if it's an emergency or if otherwise appropriate

Video resource: <https://vimeo.com/393655268/c5f9c18cd1>

Watch this short video to hear more about the '4 Rs' and understand why some young people carry knives. You'll hear from Chanell Wallace, who as a young child tragically lost her brother to knife crime. Chanell is now a journalist who recently fronted the BBC's Panorama: Knives in the Classroom. (Video source: The Key)

Sources:

- [A drill dictionary, Tony Thorne](#)
- [Knife crime: safeguarding children and young people in education, GOV.UK – Ofsted](#)
- [Sharper solutions toolkit for practitioners, No knives, better lives, Youth Link Scotland](#)
- [Stop knife crime, Met Police](#)