

What is knife crime?

Knife crime is any crime that involves a knife or sharp instrument. Offences with a knife can include threatening people, a robbery or burglary, a murder or assault. Simply carrying a knife – even if a young person hasn't used it – is also considered a crime and can get them in trouble.

99% of young people in England and Wales are living knife free. A safer Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is possible.

Warning signs that a young person may be carrying a knife – ask yourself the following questions.

- Has their attitude to school or education changed? For example- they **really** don't want to go to school, they are not doing as well as normal, they talk about school less, they stop going to clubs etc.
- Are they talking about or have new friends you've not heard of or met before?
- Are they protective and or secretive with their bag and or clothing?
- Are they more reserved, quieter or withdrawn than normal or are they more 'clingy' to you than normal?
- Have they been overly defensive when you've questioned them about their possessions?
- Do they send and receive more messages than they did before?
- Do they ever get up and leave the house abruptly?
- Are they more secretive about where they are going or have been than before?
- Are they out of the house more, particularly in the evenings and at night?
- Have they demonstrated a positive attitude towards those that carry knives, for example kitchen knife or screwdriver?

There are many reasons why young people decide to carry a knife or weapon. These can include (but are by no means exhaustive)

- They fear being a victim of knife crime – this could be from a specific threat or a perceived fear.
- General self-defence – the 'just in case' reason
- Peer pressure or being pressured into carrying for someone else
- They don't know it's wrong or they don't know it's illegal
- To intimidate others
- To earn respect
- Involvement in other criminal activities

Disposing of a knife safely

You will find amnesty bins in six different police stations across the Leicester and Leicestershire area. These bins allow anybody to get rid of knives without the fear of being punished, unless it is found to have been used for a criminal act.

- Beaumont Leys Police Station, 2 Beaumont Way, Beaumont Leys LE41DS
- Braunstone Police Station, Hallam Crescent East, Braunstone Town LE31FF
- Hinckley Road Police Station, 90 Norfolk Street, Leicester LE35QP
- Keyham Lane Police Station, Colin Grundy Drive, Hamilton LE51FY
- Mansfield House Police Station, 74 Belgrave Gate, Leicester LE13GG
- Spinney Hill Police Station, East Park Road, Leicester LE55GY

Further information

- www.livesafe.org.uk
- [#LivesNotKnives - Anti-knife campaign | Leicestershire Police \(leics.police.uk\)](#)
- [Gun and knife crime | Childline](#)

- [Knife Crime Statistics | The Ben Kinsella Trust](#)
- [For Parents | Knife Violence Prevention Scotland \(noknivesbetterlives.com\)](#)
- [Home - Fearless](#)



**Leicestershire
Police**
Protecting our communities.



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER
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Preventer · Partner · Protector



**Violence
Reduction
Network**

**#LIVESNOT
KNIVES**

**FOLLOW OUR 10 STEP GUIDE TO HELP YOU TALK TO
A YOUNG PERSON ABOUT NOT CARRYING A KNIFE.**

WE START THE CONVERSATION

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT A YOUNG PERSON OR A FRIEND?

Family, friends, teachers and role models are an important influence on a young person, and we can have a powerful effect. It might be a difficult conversation – but talking about knife carrying is critical to finding a solution.

When you speak to a young person, it's important to be clear that they have a choice, even when they think they may not.

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

STEP 4

STEP 5

STEP 6

STEP 7

STEP 8

STEP 9

STEP 10

Find a time to chat comfortably

They might be reluctant to talk to you, so why not use recent news as a conversation starter

Discuss each other's views on knives, remember you're there to listen and support them.

Understand that they might feel like they don't have any other choices, support them to see that they do.

Explain that knives do not give protection. Carrying one could mean prison, serious consequences or getting hurt themselves.

Say the bravest thing to do is to walk away from a dangerous situation.

Explore excuses with them that they can use to walk away.

For example they might say they have to pick up younger sibling or you could arrange to call them if they send you a message.

Reassure them that most people their age and older do not carry knives.

Explain they can always report their concerns about anyone carrying a knife anonymously through Fearless, an organisation designed to help young people.



I WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
KNIFE CRIME. WHERE CAN I GO?

Visit our website to find more resources:

WWW.LEICS.POLICE.UK