

KNIFE CRIME

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Merseyside Police Safer Schools Officers and school staff will deliver assemblies and classroom sessions focused on knife crime. These sessions aim to help pupils understand what knife crime is, how it affects individuals and communities, and what they can do if they experience or witness it.



UNDERSTANDING THE LAW

- It is illegal to carry most knives in public without a "good reason".
- Banned weapons include zombie knives, disguised knives (hidden in everyday objects), flick knives, butterfly knives and curved swords such as "ninja-style" blades.
- It is illegal to sell most knives to anyone under 18.

CONSEQUENCES OF CARRYING A KNIFE

- Possession: Carrying a knife illegally can result in up to 4 years in prison, an unlimited fine, or both.
- Repeat offences: Courts take repeat offences very seriously, and prison sentences are likely.
- Threatening behaviour: Using a knife to threaten someone is a criminal offence, even if no one is injured or the knife itself is not banned.
- Joint Enterprise: If someone is present when a knife crime is committed, they may also be prosecuted, even if they didn't physically use the weapon.

WHAT PUPILS WILL LEARN

- The definition of knife crime – what it means in law.
- What counts as a weapon – including made/adapted/intended weapons.
- The consequences of carrying weapons – covering the legal, social and personal impact.
- Myth-busting – exploring common myths such as carrying for protection and why these beliefs are dangerous and untrue.
- Recently banned weapons – outlining the current laws around weapons such as zombie knives and Ninja swords.
- Stop and Search – explaining what powers the police have to search someone.
- Joint Enterprise – highlighting that being present when a crime is committed, even if not directly involved, can still result in prosecution.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT A YOUNG PERSON

We understand that talking about knife crime can be difficult, but your support is essential. You can help by:

- Having open conversations about why carrying weapons is dangerous and unacceptable.
- Encouraging a young person to speak up if they're worried about someone else.
- Helping them find safe, positive activities.
- Reminding them that carrying a knife puts them at greater risk, not less.

Most young people who carry a knife end up seriously injured – often by their own weapon.

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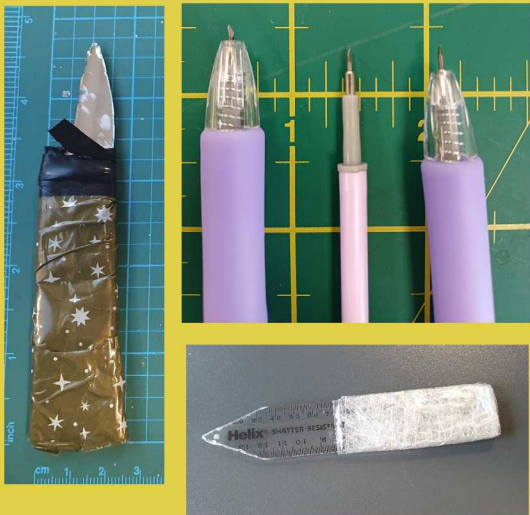
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THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

Some knives are disguised to look like everyday items, such as marker pens, screwdrivers, or highlighters – making them harder to detect and more dangerous.

These adapted weapons are illegal and often used to avoid suspicion. Parents should look out for unusual or modified objects in their child's belongings, changes in behaviour, or signs of secrecy.

Talking openly about the risks and encouraging safe choices can help prevent harm and keep young people protected.



STOP & SEARCH

Police can stop and search someone if they have "reasonable grounds" to suspect they are carrying a knife or other illegal item.

KNIFE SURRENDER

Merseyside Police regularly conduct knife surrenders as part of its ongoing policing activity.

The next surrender takes place

17-23 November 2025

Every knife surrendered is one less potentially dangerous weapon on the streets of Merseyside.

For more information, scan the QR code or visit www.merseyside.police.uk/knife-surrender.

**SURRENDER
A KNIFE
SAVE A LIFE**



REPORTING OPTIONS

If you or a young person have concerns about knife crime, there are safe and confidential ways to report:

- In an emergency: Always call 999
- Non-emergency: Call 101 to speak to Merseyside Police.
- Crimestoppers: Report anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org
- Fearless: Young people can report crime 100% anonymously through www.fearless.org, a service designed specifically for them.

Together, we can ensure that our young people understand the risks, stay safe, and feel supported.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the sessions or would like more information about knife crime, please speak to your school's designated safeguarding lead or contact your Safer Schools Officer for support.



prevention
is at our core, putting our community first