

# KNIFE CRIME

Where to get more advice:

## **Fearless**

Fearless is a site where you can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality.

- [fearless.org](https://fearless.org)

## **Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership**

An online resource providing materials to support parents and carers.

- [suffolkcsb.org.uk](https://suffolkcsb.org.uk)

## **Suffolk Police**

Provides information and advice for young people about gang/county lines culture and how to leave a gang.

- [suffolk.police.uk](https://suffolk.police.uk)

## **NSPCC**

Support and tips to help you keep children safe. From advice on children's mental health to staying safe online, support for parents and what to do if you're worried about a child.

- [nspcc.org.uk](https://nspcc.org.uk)



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Contact us:

[suffolk.police.uk/contact-us](https://suffolk.police.uk/contact-us)

Call 101 for non-emergencies

Call 999 in an emergency only

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# KNIFE CRIME

Advice for Parents and Guardians



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## Advice for parents

Children face all sorts of pressures and it may be that your child is in contact with friends who carry knives.

The chances are your child has spoken to friends or heard stories about carrying a knife.

Whilst many young people do not carry a knife it still may be worth having this conversation with your child.

Police, schools and colleges work closely together to tackle knife crime. As a parent or guardian, you have a role to play in helping your child make the right choice on this subject.

By carrying a knife your child:

- May have a false sense of security
- Could be arming an attacker, increasing the risk of getting stabbed or injured.
- They are breaking the law with huge consequences.

By not carrying and walking away from confrontation:

- It's what the vast majority do
- It's the tougher thing to do
- It means they will be safer from serious harm and not breaking the law.

## Signs to look out for

Most children decide they need to start carrying a knife because they feel threatened.

- School not going well/they don't want to attend
- They've been a recent victim of theft/bullying/mugging
- A different network of friends who may be older

## What do I need to know?

The term 'offensive weapon' is defined as: '...any article made or adapted for use to cause injury to a person, or intended by the person having it with them for such use.'

There are 3 categories of Offensive Weapons:



### Made

Knuckle dusters, flick knives, batons



### Adapted

Broken bottle, sharpened metal comb, screwdriver



### Intended

Baseball bat, rope, hammer

### Searches at schools (Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006)

A member of staff may search pupils and any items that are prohibited can be seized and handed to the police.

Banned offensive weapons include: flick knives (switchblades/automatic knives), butterfly knives, disguised knives (in which the blade is hidden in something like a belt buckle or fake mobile phone).

If your child decided to carry a weapon this automatically becomes a police matter where the consequences are tough! This can carry a prison sentence of up to 4 years – even if it's not used.

In the event of stabbing another person and they subsequently die; the consequences are huge and can face a life prison sentence of a minimum of 25 years.

Carrying a knife can affect your child getting a job, going to university or college and even stop them travelling abroad to some countries.

## What can I do?

Understand that your child may be scared or unwilling to talk about this, be clear how important this is and they do have a choice even if they think they may not.

You are not alone! Have a chat with other parents, if you are worried they probably are too.

Are there other family members that could lend a hand to talk to your child – grandparents, uncles, older siblings?

Know the facts and share these with your child, highlight the reality of carrying a knife, use social media and news stories.

Discuss the consequences around the law if they are to carry a knife or weapon.

If your child is in education speak to the school for further support.

Encourage them to get involved with positive activities consider local organisations such as sports clubs, cadets and youth groups.

Be aware of what your child is doing and who their friends are.

Seek advice and assistance from local organisations such as those contained in this leaflet.

**If there's a knife in your child's hands, it's in your hands to stop it.**