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The Achieve and Learn Trust believes that nothing is more important than safeguarding the young people in our schools.

This half term we will be focussing on violence, knives and antisocial behaviour in the community. Unfortunately we are seeing knife crime perpetrated by young people in the news more and more frequently. The schools in the Trust will be talking to our young people, upskilling parents and training staff over the next few weeks to open the conversation about the devastating consequences of violence and knives in the community.

Look for the signs

We know that the vast majority of young people live positive lives and are not involved in gangs or knife crime. However, there are a small number of young people who do become involved and this can be a concern for parents and carers. It can have a significant impact on families, communities, as well as themselves. You can help your child by looking out for signs of their involvement and talking through the issues with them.



Getting caught with a knife:

If you get caught with a knife, even if it was for your own protection or if you were carrying it for someone else, you will be arrested and prosecuted.



Keeping safe:

Some young people carry knives to protect themselves and 'keep safe.' But if you carry a knife you are much more likely to use it and to get stabbed yourself.



No 'safe place' to stab someone:

A wound in the arm or the leg can still be life threatening. Young people have died from wounds to the leg because an artery was severed.



Stop and search:

Police can and will search anyone they believe is carrying a knife, other weapon or they believe serious violence could take place



Joint enterprise:

If someone is killed by a knife in your presence, you could be prosecuted even if it's not you who uses it. You could be sent to prison for murder, in what is referred to as 'joint enterprise'.



Stabbing an artery:

If a knife punctures an artery, you can bleed to death within a minute.



Prison:

Getting caught with a knife can mean a prison sentence, even if the knife has not been used.



Alcohol:

Alcohol lowers inhibitions and increased the chances of taking a risk. Alcohol is a factor in 80% of weapons related injuries.



Criminal record:

If you have a criminal record, you might not be accepted into a college or university, get a job, or travel to countries like the USA, Canada or Australia.

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.



Getting Support for your Child



The Parent and Carer (PACS) project, established in October 2023, is dedicated to supporting parents and carers in Greater Manchester who are concerned about their child or worried they may be at risk of violence.

As parents and caregivers, we all worry about our children from time to time, but when a concern is troubling you it can be difficult to know where to turn. We have listened to parents and our research shows that caregivers are looking for one-to-one support, peer support, advice and guidance when their child's behaviour is becoming a concern.

To make a referral, call your school and speak to the Pastoral Team, or follow the link to make a self referral. [Oasis GM PACS Referral Form](#)

Parenting Support: Talking about knives and violence

Young people 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 talked about knives with friends or heard a story about the kid who carried a knife. Whilst many young people do **not** carry knives – it is still a conversation worth having with your child. You have a role to play in helping your child make the right choice on this subject. If there is one person your child will listen to, it's you. They respect you more than you think

IF THERE'S A KNIFE IN YOUR CHILD'S HANDS, IT'S IN YOUR HANDS TO STOP IT.



It is against the law to carry a knife in public place.

Unless the blade is less than 3 inches long and is a manual folding blade. Doing so can carry a prison sentence of up to 4 years even if it is not used in England & Wales, and 5 years in Scotland. It is also against the law to carry a knife on behalf of someone else



A person must be 18 or over to purchase a knife.

This includes cutlery and kitchen knives. In Scotland, people between the ages of 16 and 18 can legally purchase cutlery and kitchen knives.



If the blade is less than 3 inches in length and is a manual folding blade,

A person over the age of 16 can purchase this knife.



It is illegal to bring into the country, sell, possess, hire or give someone a banned knife.

Banned knives include: butterfly knives, disguised knives, flick knives, and zombie knives. A full list of banned knives in the UK can be found on the GOV website.

What you can do—TALK

Talk to your child and see what they think about carrying a knife - you may have seen something in the news about knife crime that you could discuss. This can be a tricky conversation – your child may be scared or unwilling to talk about this. It is never a bad thing to talk and it's important to be clear that your child does have a choice, even when they think they may not.

- 1** Find a **time to chat** comfortably
- 2** They might be **reluctant to talk** to you. So use a **recent news event** as a conversation starter
- 3** **Discuss** each other's views on **knives** - You're there to **listen** and **support** them
- 4** Tell them when they **feel** they don't have **choices**, they do
- 5** Explain that **knives do not** give protection. Carrying one could mean **prison** or **getting hurt** yourself
- 6** Say the **bravest** thing to do is **walk away** from a **dangerous** situation
- 7** Explore **excuses** for your child to **walk away**
- 8** They might say they have to **pick up** their little brother, or arrange for you to **call them** if they send you a **message**
- 9** Reassure them that most people **do not** carry knives
- 10** Explain they can always **report** their **concerns** about anyone carrying a **knife** **anonymously** through **Fearless**

fearless.org

SAY NO 
2 KNIVES