

## Introduction

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

*I'm sure many of you will have been watching the new Netflix series "Adolescence" which follows a family whose teenage son is accused of murder leaving everyone asking how this could happen. I'm sure this will open conversations in families about how we can be more aware of how to prevent our children getting involved in violence and knife crime. I hope the resources in this bulletin support you to have more informed conversations.*

## Identifying Children at Risk of Knife Crime

Many parents do not know what they are looking for when trying to identify if their child is at risk of carrying a weapon. Here are some of the things to look out for;

- ◆ Know what knives and how many you have in the kitchen and in toolkits at home.
- ◆ Monitor any unusual online purchases arriving at your home. Online retailers and delivery companies should ask for age verification when they deliver or when they ask you to collect age restricted goods.
- ◆ Keep engaged with your child or young person and their use of social media.
- ◆ Think about searching their bag and room (is there evidence of drugs, extra money, or new clothes?). Think of other hiding spaces that may be used in your home and remember it might not be a knife but some other weapon.
- ◆ Know where they are and who they are with (do they have a new circle of friends and are they becoming less engaged with their family?).
- ◆ Encourage them to 'hang out' in safe areas wherever possible and talk to your child about places they can go if they are feeling vulnerable.



**KNIFE  
CRIME**  
Awareness  
Week

# THINK: SAFE

## S SPEAK

Are you worried about plans that are being made amongst friends?  
Has someone said or done something that you feel worried about?

Speak with a trusted adult and they can help you. Always speak with a trusted adult about any plans you make, and make sure they always know where you are.

## A ADVICE

Ask for advice from a Parent/carer, teacher or Childline.

Are you being asked to do something that makes you uncomfortable? Is there something that doesn't feel right? Everyone needs advice sometimes. You're not by yourself and help is available. Speak to a trusted adult or contact Childline on 0800 1111.

## F FRIENDSHIP

Friendships should be positive, caring and respectful. Friends should be there to support each other.

A certain amount of conflict in any friendship can be normal, and disagreements do happen even with really close friends. But if your friends are taking part in an unsafe situation and asking you to do the same, this is not something a friend should do. Speak to an adult you trust straight away and get some support.

## E ENVIRONMENT

Everyone has the right to a safe environment.

If you're out with friends, or in an environment that seemed positive, but now may not be safe, make contact with a trusted adult. Make plans with your trusted adult in advance so you know what to do if you need help.

## NON-VIOLENCE RESISTANCE (NVR)

### What is it?

Non-Violence Resistance is an approach that helps parents and carers develop strategies to manage children's challenging, destructive or violent behaviour while building or rebuilding the relationship. Some of the information below may help you when speaking to your child.

### Key NVR principles

#### De-escalation strategies – "Strike when the iron is cold!"

Try not to escalate the situation by identifying when the best time is to talk. Anticipate possible escalations before they happen. Delay your response. You decide when and how to finish a discussion with your child.

#### Parental presence

Have a physical, emotional, moral presence in your child's life both inside and outside the home, so that he/she will make good decisions when they are not in your presence.

#### Supporters

Break your silence and talk to friends, family, professionals about your struggles in managing your child's challenging behaviour.

#### Reconciliation gestures

Surprise your child with a gesture that will let him/her know that you love them and recognise their need to feel safe and sense of belonging. Do it despite any negative behaviour.

#### Baskets

Prioritise the challenging behaviours you are going to focus on. It can feel overwhelming, so organise them, such as 1-2 behaviours you are going to focus on, behaviours that are important that you can negotiate as well as behaviours you will ignore for now. Lastly, make a list of the special things you like about your child and do your best to remember them.

#### Look after yourself

Parents take time out to do something for themselves like indulge a favourite treat, bubble bath, watch a favourite movie, go out with a friend/partner for coffee.

# KNIVES TAKE LIVES

If you carry a knife, you risk  
spending time behind bars.



#StopKnifeCrime

GREATER MANCHESTER  
POLICE



To report a crime, call Greater Manchester Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.  
Alternatively, please call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

### The Ben Kinsella Trust

Free learning resources and information for parents, teachers, practitioners, and young people <https://benkinsella.org.uk/resources/>

### Citizens Advice

If your child has been illegally sold a knife, you can report this to Trading Standards on 03454 04 05 06 or visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/>

### Crimestoppers

Is an independent charity that gives you the power to speak up to stop crime, 100% anonymously. Telephone: 0800 555 111  
Website: [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

### Childline

Your child can call Childline on 0800 1111 at any time if they are worried about their own safety.

### Family Lives

Gives advice on all aspects of parenting and is open 24/7. Calls are free on 0808 800 2222 or visit [familylives.org.uk](http://familylives.org.uk)

### Fearless

Fearless is a service that allows young people to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously. <https://www.fearless.org/>

### NSPCC

NSPCC (The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children): Their helpline provides information and advice to parents and others concerned about young people who may be involved or affected by gang activity. Their helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Freephone: 0808 800 5000. Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) Web: [nspcc.org.uk/gangs](http://nspcc.org.uk/gangs)

### The Police

To find details of your local team and find out more about the work they are doing in your area, type your postcode at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. Call 999 in an emergency.

### The Princes Trust

Support for families and young people (11-30 years old) <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk>

### Victim Support

A national charity which helps people affected by crime. Web: [victimsupport.org](http://victimsupport.org)