

APPROACHING A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT **KNIFE CRIME**

Having a conversation with your child about knife carrying may feel difficult, awkward or upsetting, but with the right support, you can really make a difference when it comes to changing attitudes and perceptions around violence.

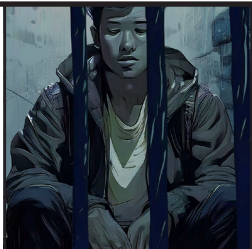
Unfortunately, **boys under 18 are the most common group to be caught carrying a knife in South Yorkshire.** We know many of these young people wrongly believe carrying a knife is normal or necessary, either for their own protection or to gain status with their peers.



IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW 99.75% OF PEOPLE IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE DON'T CARRY A KNIFE.



SEARCH '**KNIVES TAKE LIVES**' OR SCAN THE **QR CODE** FOR FURTHER ADVICE AND SUPPORT.



KNIVES TAKE LIVES

WHERE DO I START?

Do your research – preparation is key. Try and stick to facts rather than opinions – visit the Knives Take Lives website for information from a trusted source.

Choose a good time and place – make sure there is plenty of time to talk, somewhere quiet where there are no distractions.

Listen – be patient, encourage them to share their feelings with you, and acknowledge how they may be feeling. Try not to react if they tell you something that shocks or upsets you.

Show you care – how would it make you feel if they were caught with a knife? How would you feel if something happened to them?

Be positive – reassure them that most people don't carry a knife.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- For the most part, it is illegal to carry a knife in public, even if you don't use it
- It is illegal to use any knife in a threatening way
- It is illegal to own zombie-style knives or machetes, even if you keep them at home
- 'Self-protection' will not be accepted as a valid excuse
- Even a minor wound can be fatal
- Knife amnesty bin locations can be found on the Knives Take Lives website

REPORTING INFORMATION

- Encourage your child to speak to a trusted adult – whether that's you, another family member, a teacher or youth worker
- Fearless is the dedicated youth service of Crimestoppers. Young people can report **100% anonymously** by visiting **fearless.org** or calling **0800 555 111**
- South Yorkshire Police can be contacted online at **southyorkshire.police.uk**, via **live chat** or on **101**