



Knife crime

It can be extremely worrying to think that your child is involved in something as dangerous as knife crime. They may not be carrying a weapon themselves but could be spending time with people who are. The natural reaction is to panic, but this won't resolve the situation, and could push your child away.

If your child was at risk, would you spot the signs?

You might think carrying a knife is commonplace, but **very few people actually carry knives**. By carrying a knife, people will be more at risk of harm or prosecution.

Possible signs a young person is linked to knife crime:

-  Having unusual knowledge of what knives are in the kitchen, toolboxes, or other places in the home – or concealing knives around the home
-  Uncharacteristic changes in behaviour
-  Unexplained injuries, marks or bruises
-  A new friendship group, or withdrawing from family or old friends
-  Becoming anxious after receiving text messages, calls or using social media
-  Unusual online purchases arriving at your home, including age restricted goods (which should require verification upon delivery)

Feel more confident when talking to your child

Stop and search: police can and will search young people if they believe they are carrying a knife

Joint enterprise: if someone is injured or killed by a knife in your child's presence, your child could be prosecuted even if they did not commit a crime. They could be sent to prison for murder in what is referred to as 'joint enterprise'

No 'safe place' to stab someone: a wound to the arm or leg can still be life threatening. A small blade can be enough to cut an artery leading to death within minutes

Criminal record: if you have a criminal record, it might affect what you can study at college or university, what job you can apply for, or travel to countries like the US, Canada or Australia



Find out more and get support

Ben Kinsella Trust  benkinsella.org.uk



What to do if you're worried about your child or a child you know

Remember, **you're not to blame.**

And **your child may be vulnerable or scared.**



Talk to your child

Let them know they can talk to you about anything. Ask them questions about what's going on, tell them that you want to help them and keep them safe.

Try to get them to see the reality of their situation and possible consequences of carrying a knife. Be open, honest and non-judgemental.

How to dispose of a knife

Take it to your nearest police station in a taped-up box where it will be disposed of safely.

Talk to the parents of your child's friends

If you're worried, parents of your child's friends probably are too. They may see your child in different places, hanging out with different friends and could help you get a better understanding of the situation. By working together, you could raise awareness of the issue.

Get help and support for yourself

Try to stay calm. You don't have to deal with this on your own. Help is available – see useful contacts below.

Useful contacts

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**

Missing People Safecall (call or text)
11600

Ben Kinsella Trust
benkinsella.org.uk

Cambridgeshire Constabulary **101**

If a child or young person is in immediate danger call 999

Children's Social Care

Peterborough **01733 864180**

Cambridgeshire **0345 045 5203**

Out of hours emergency team **01733 234724**