

Leicestershire Police - What is knife crime?

Knife crime is any crime that involves a knife or sharp instrument. Offences with a knife can include threatening people, a robbery or burglary, a murder or assault. Simply carrying a knife – even if a young person hasn't used it – is also considered a crime and can get them in trouble.

99% of young people in England and Wales are living knife free. A safer Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is possible.

Warning signs that a young person may be carrying a knife – ask yourself the following questions.

- Has their attitude to school or education changed? For example- they **really** don't want to go to school, they are not doing as well as normal, they talk about school less, they stop going to clubs etc.
- Are they talking about or have new friends you've not heard of or met before?
- Are they protective and or secretive with their bag and or clothing?
- Are they more reserved, quieter or withdrawn than normal or are they more 'clingy' to you than normal?
- Have they been overly defensive when you've questioned them about their possessions?
- Do they send and receive more messages than they did before?
- Do they ever get up and leave the house abruptly?
- Are they more secretive about where they are going or have been than before?
- Are they out of the house more, particularly in the evenings and at night?
- Have they demonstrated a positive attitude towards those that carry knives, for example kitchen knife or screwdriver?

There are many reasons why young people decide to carry a knife or weapon. These can include (but are by no means exhaustive)

- They fear being a victim of knife crime – this could be from a specific threat or a perceived fear.
- General self-defence – the 'just in case' reason
- Peer pressure or being pressured into carrying for someone else
- They don't know it's wrong or they don't know it's illegal
- To intimidate others
- To earn respect
- Involvement in other criminal activities

Disposing of a knife safely

Amnesty bins can be found at all police stations across the Leicester and Leicestershire area, a list is below. These bins allow anybody to get rid of knives without the fear of being punished, unless it is found to have been used for a criminal act.

Loughborough	Coalville	Hinckley	Beaumont Leys	Mansfield House
Melton	Market Harborough	Keyham Lane	Spinney Hill	Braunstone

Further information

- www.livesafe.org.uk
- [#LivesNotKnives - Anti-knife campaign | Leicestershire Police \(leics.police.uk\)](https://www.leics.police.uk/campaigns/lives-not-knives)
- [Gun and knife crime | Childline](https://www.childline.gov.uk/advice/parents/gun-and-knife-crime/)
- [Knife Crime Statistics | The Ben Kinsella Trust](https://www.ben-kinsella.com/knife-crime-statistics)
- [For Parents | Knife Violence Prevention Scotland \(noknivesbetterlives.com\)](http://noknivesbetterlives.com)
- [Home - Fearless](#)





Leicestershire
Police
Protecting our communities



POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER
for Leicestershire
Prevention, Partnership, Protection



Violence
Reduction
Network



#LIVESNOT
KNIVES



FOLLOW OUR 10 STEP GUIDE TO HELP YOU TALK TO
A YOUNG PERSON ABOUT **NOT CARRYING A KNIFE**.

WE START THE CONVERSATION

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT A YOUNG PERSON OR A FRIEND?

Family, friends, teachers and role models are an important influence on a young person, and we can have a powerful effect. It might be a difficult conversation – but talking about knife carrying is critical to finding a solution.

When you speak to a young person, it's important to be clear that they have a choice, even when they think they may not.

- STEP 1** Find a time to chat comfortably
- STEP 2** They might be reluctant to talk to you, so why not use recent news as a conversation starter
- STEP 3** Discuss each other's views on knives, remember you're there to listen and support them.
- STEP 4** Understand that they might feel like they don't have any other choices, support them to see that they do.
- STEP 5** Explain that knives do not give protection. Carrying one could mean prison, serious consequences or getting hurt themselves.
- STEP 6** Say the bravest thing to do is to walk away from a dangerous situation.
- STEP 7** Explore excuses with them that they can use to walk away.
- STEP 8** For example they might say they have to pick up younger sibling or you could arrange to call them if they send you a message.
- STEP 9** Reassure them that most people their age and older do not carry knives.
- STEP 10** Explain they can always report their concerns about anyone carrying a knife anonymously through Fearless, an organisation designed to help young people.



**I WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
KNIFE CRIME. WHERE CAN I GO?**

Visit our website to find more resources:



WWW.LEICS.POLICE.UK

