

## Introduction

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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 continue to focus 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.*

## The Law

When talking to your child about knife crime, it is always best to know the laws around carrying weapons. Below outlines the laws around carrying a knife and offensive weapons:

It is an offence to carry a knife in a public place (such as a road or in a school) or to carry any article which has a blade or is sharply pointed. It is also an offence to carry an offensive weapon in a public place. This includes any article made, adapted or intended for causing injury as detailed below:

- ◆ **Made:** Made to cause injury, such as a knuckle duster or bayonets
- ◆ **Adapted:** Something innocent that has been adapted to cause injury, such as a broken bottle or a chair leg with nails
- ◆ **Intended:** Anything else, such as an umbrella or pen that is intended by the person to be used to cause injury to others



Carrying a knife includes: in your hand, a pocket, in the boot of your car or if someone else is carrying a knife for you. Exceptions include if you are carrying the knife as part of your job, such as a tool for a trade. However, forgetfulness, ignorance to the law or general self defence are not reasonable excuses if you are caught carrying a knife.

It is an offence to use any knife in a threatening way (even a legal knife) • It is also an offence to sell a knife to anyone under 18. If you are concerned that your child has been sold a knife, you can contact the Citizen's Advice Bureau to report the trader to Trading Standards.

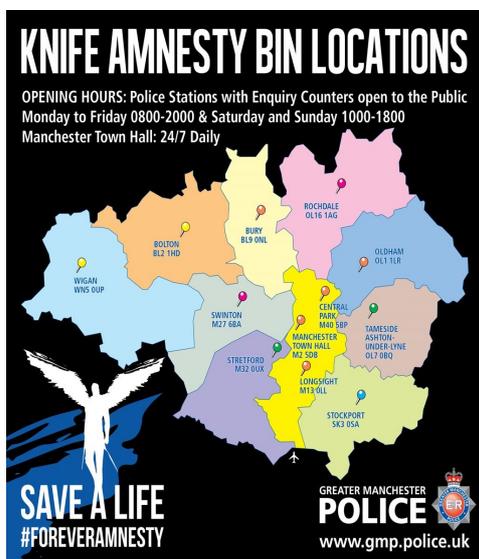
# MYTH OR FACTS

<p>Carrying a knife provides a person with protection</p>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> </div> <p>It has been proven that if you carry a knife, you are more likely to be hurt or threatened by someone else. People are often wounded by their own knife they were carrying, putting them at greater risk.</p>
<p>Most young people carry knives</p>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> </div> <p>Actually, 99% of young people DO NOT carry knives. Sometimes it may feel like more people carry knives because of stories they've heard, or what they have seen online, on social media or in the news.</p>
<p>If it is illegal to carry a knife, then other sharp objects can be carried for protection</p>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> </div> <p>Any sharp object that is being carried with the intention of using it in a threatening way could be classed as an offensive weapon.</p>
<p>There are safe places on the body to stab someone</p>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> </div> <p>Any stab wound could be fatal for a number of reasons. For example, major arteries run across the whole body. If a major artery is severed, that person will bleed very quickly and it could be fatal within 5 minutes.</p>

## Does my child need help?

Below are some practical tips to help you to understand whether your child needs help or support. Most young people live positive lives and some behaviour can just be typical teenage behaviour. However, the tips below may help you to recognise whether your child is at risk.

- ◆ Keep engaged with your kid's lives and social media
- ◆ Know where they are and who they are with – do they have a new circle of friends?
- ◆ Are they in a relationship with or hanging out with someone/people that are older and controlling?
- ◆ Are they becoming less engaged with you?
- ◆ Are they receiving more calls or texts than usual?
- ◆ Do they suddenly have lots of money/ lots of new clothes/new mobile phones?
- ◆ Do they have unexplained injuries?
- ◆ Do they seem very reserved or seem like they have something to hide?
- ◆ Do they seem scared?
- ◆ Are they self-harming?
- ◆ Are they skipping school?
- ◆ Know what you have in the kitchen and in toolkits
- ◆ Keep an eye out for any online purchases and what is delivered to your home
- ◆ Increasing drug use or being found to have large amounts of drugs on them
- ◆ Are they always going missing from school or their home?
- ◆ Are they travelling alone to places far away from home?



Of course, there could be all sorts of reasons other than 'gangs' why children and young people exhibit any of the above behaviours and the checklist above is the kind of thing that most parents will be aware of and watching for.

You know your child and what are significant changes for them. Remember the most protective factors for your children will often be their family/carer relationships. If you are worried you can contact the numbers on the 'Where to find support' information below

**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

