

# Are you a parent or carer and worried about your child carrying a knife?

## What you need to know about carrying a knife:

- Gives you a false sense of security.
- Could be increasing the risk of you getting stabbed or injured.
- You are committing a crime – it's breaking the law to carry a knife.
- Police can stop and search anyone they suspect of carrying a knife.
- Carrying a knife could mean being arrested, going to court and getting a criminal record, or even a prison sentence.

## Communication is the key:

- Have a chat with your kids and see what they think about carrying a knife - you may have seen something current in the news about knife crime that you could discuss.
- Your child may be scared or unwilling to talk about this. But it is never a bad thing to talk and it's important to be clear that your child does have a choice, even when they think they may not.
- Talk to the parents of your child's friends. If you're worried, they probably are too and it's always good to talk about these things.



## **What to look out for:**

Looking out for changes in your child's behaviour can help keep them safe. Has your child started displaying signs of:

- Complaining that schools not going well or they don't want to go in to school at all.
- They've been a recent victim of theft, bullying or even a mugging.
- Hanging around with a different group of friends, maybe older than your child.

**Remind your child that they should always walk away if confronted with the threat of violence.**

## **Useful Contacts:**

### **Gov.uk**

[www.direct.gov.uk/talkaboutknives](http://www.direct.gov.uk/talkaboutknives)

### **Parentline Plus**

0808 800 22 22

[www.parentlineplus.org.uk](http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk)

### **Victim Support**

0845 30 30 900

[www.victimsupport.org](http://www.victimsupport.org)

### **Local Constabulary**

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[www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk)

### **Mothers Against Violence**

[www.mothersagainstviolence.org.uk](http://www.mothersagainstviolence.org.uk)