

# 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.

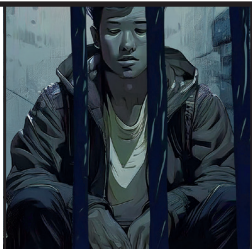
Unfortunately, **boys under 18 are the most common group to be caught carrying a knife in South Yorkshire.** We know many of these young people wrongly believe carrying a knife is normal or necessary, either for their own protection or to gain status with their peers.



**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**