

Safeguarding Newsletter

January 2026

Knife Crime:

Knife crime is a serious and growing issue affecting children and young people across the UK. Over the past decade, knife-related assaults and homicides involving teenagers have risen significantly - even as overall youth violence has declined. More recently we experienced knife crime within our local community. While only a small percentage of young people are involved, the consequences are devastating: serious injuries, deaths, and communities living in fear. Many children and young people carry knives out of fear or for status, with underlying factors including poverty, exploitation, and/or trauma. Knowing about knife crime helps understand the risks, spot warning signs, support those affected, and be part of the solution - whether you're a parent, teacher, peer, or community member.

What is Knife Crime:

A knife is classed as an offensive weapon. Knife crime includes any offence where a sharp instrument is used or possessed that would pierce the skin.

Knife crime includes:

- carrying a knife or trying to buy a knife if you are under 18
 - threatening someone with a knife
 - owning a banned knife
 - injuring or murdering somebody with a knife
 - intent to injure or harm somebody with a knife
 - a robbery or burglary where a knife was used
- Offensive Weapons Act 2019

The Offensive Weapons Act has changed. Whilst it has always been an offence to carry a bladed article in a public place, it is now an offence to possess certain items such as knuckledusters, throwing stars and zombie knives, even in private.

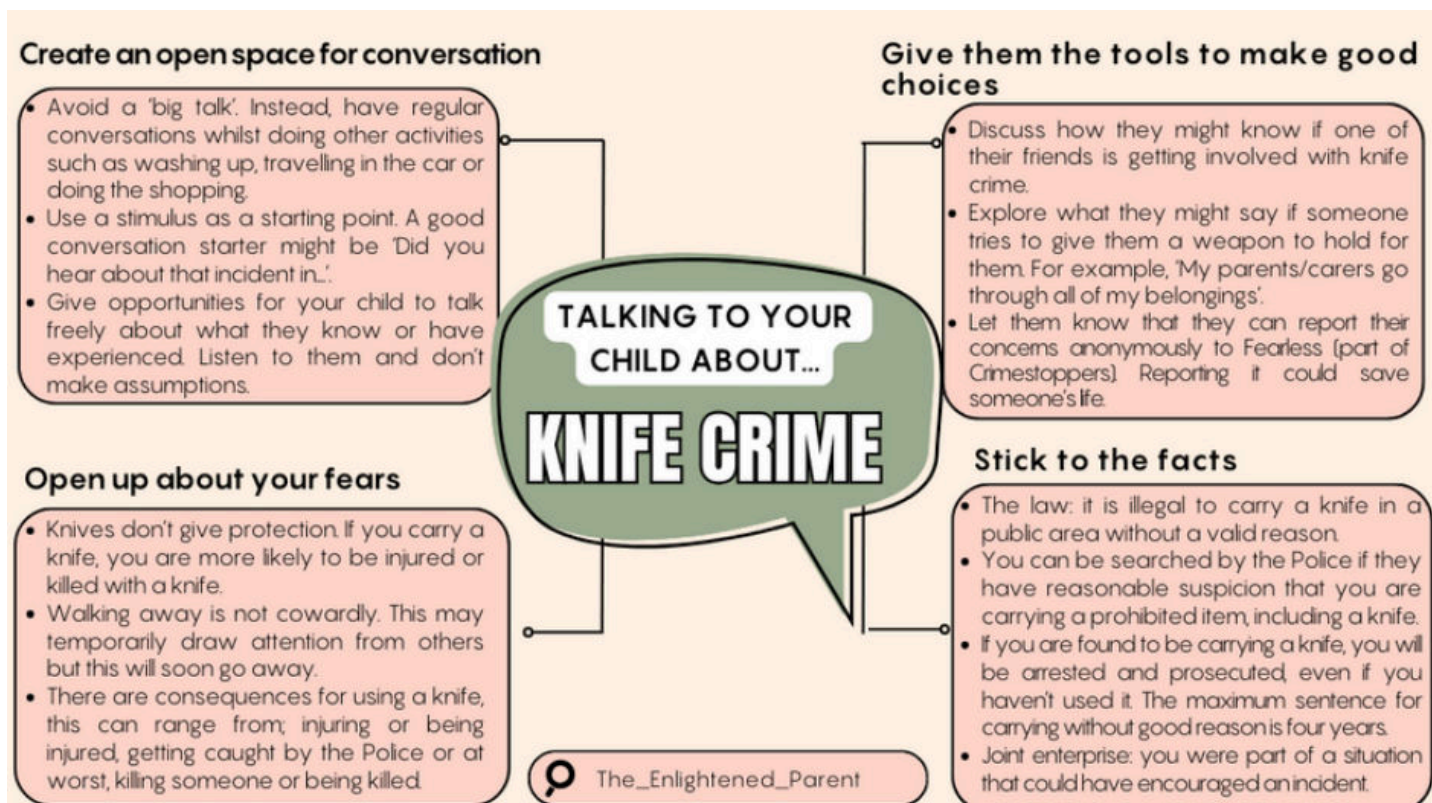


Talking to your child about Knife Crime

Knife Crime: Discussing the Topic With Your Child In the current news climate, we often hear about knife and weapon-related incidents, but it may feel distant. As parents/carers, it's crucial to actively educate our children about these risks. Early intervention is key, and here are some strategies to consider: reassure your child that they can always talk to you if something feels wrong establish sensible socialising boundaries together keep track of their whereabouts and company, incorporating this into the agreed boundaries maintain open communication with your child's friends' parents/carers

Consequences of bringing prohibited items into the academy:

Students should never bring banned items as highlighted in the behaviour and exclusion policy into the Academy. If any individual asks students to carry drugs, weapons or illegal dangerous items these are the students responsibility. If students bring these onto the Academy Site this will result in a permanent suspension and your child will no longer be able to attend Rivers Academy or Space Studio West London.



How are the children taught to stay safe?

As part of our comprehensive Personal Development programme, all children at the Rivers Campus receive regular lessons on PSHE, Citizenship and RE topics. Our aim is to educate and inform the children, not to scare them, so they know the risks and dangers involved and can discuss the issues in a safe environment with an adult they can trust. We give the children strategies they can use and signpost them to people who can support them. **This term all students will receive an extra lesson on knife crime and safety in the community in addition to the regular planned curriculum. Any students who are concerned will be offered extra one to one or small group support.**

Support contacts for parents:

<p>Circle Café South Ealing Road London, W5 4QA Young Ealing</p>	<p>Speak CAMHS – Helpline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0800 328 4444 (Option 2) • Mon–Fri: 8am–11pm 	<p>Online & Community-Based Support Kooth (Ages 11–25) https://www.kooth.com/</p>
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<p>Opening Hours</p> <p>Circle Café is open 365 days a year, with long daily hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mon–Fri: 14:00–22:00• Sat–Sun: 12:00–20:00 <p>These hours run during term time, school holidays, and bank holidays.</p>	<p>• Weekends & Bank Holidays: 12pm–8pm</p>	
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Useful Resources:

<https://livesafe.org.uk/young-people/knife-crime/>

<https://www.met.police.uk/stopknifecrime>

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/county-lines>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/county-lines-criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adult>

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/community-family/county-lines>

<https://www.catch-22.org.uk/find-services/county-lines-support-and-rescue/>