Knife Harm

Parents and Carers Guide

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Knife Harm

Parents and Carers Guide

TO INFORM ABOUT;

FACTS AND THE LAW

PRACTICAL HELP AND GUIDANCE

WHERE TO FIND SUPPORT

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The Law

- It is an offence to carry a knife* in a public place
- It is an offence to carry an offensive weapon in a public place
- Carrying a knife includes in your hand, a pocket, in the boot of your car

  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 (protection) 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 an offence to sell a knife to anyone under 18

* Unless it has a folding blade 3 inches long or less

The Consequences

- Carrying a weapon increases the risk of being injured
- They could go to jail for up to 4 years if they're found in possession of a knife, even if they're carrying it for someone else
- They will get a criminal record, which could stop them entering university or getting a job, and places restrictions on countries that they can travel to, such as the USA, Australia and Canada
- In a worst-case scenario, they could end up using the weapon and seriously hurting someone

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Practical Ideas

Some young people carry a knife because they are worried about becoming a victim of knife crime. Unfortunately, carrying a knife only increases their chance of being hurt.

The easiest and most common place for young people to get a knife is from the family home.

Know how many knives you have in the home and garage (toolboxes etc)

Talk to other parents. They may have similar concerns.

Talk to your child's school. What are they doing to educate pupils on keeping safe? Does the school know they can ask a PCSO to deliver a talk on knife awareness?

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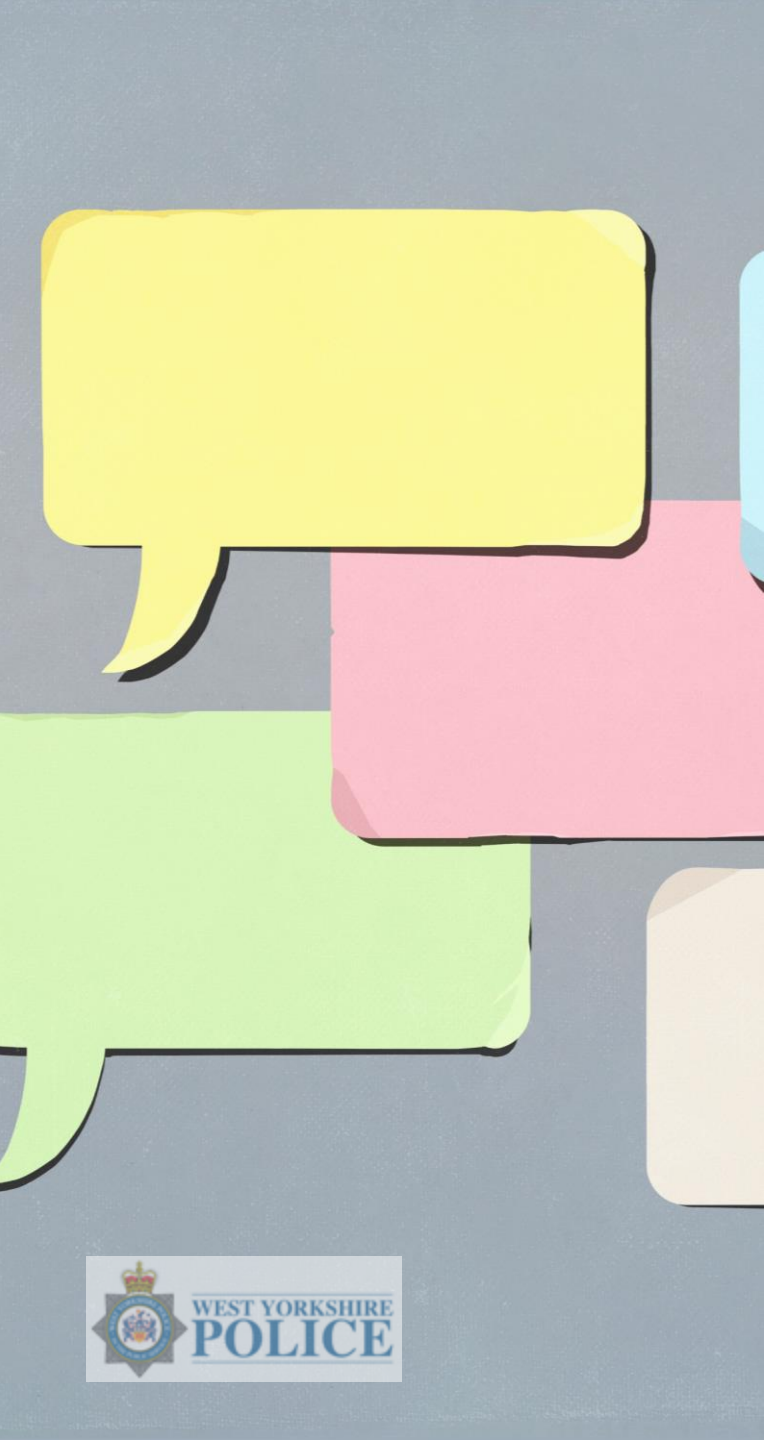

Having a Conversation

The Right Atmosphere

Calm, safe, non judgemental

Listen and Be Positive

Take time to let them talk. Be positive. Try to come up with joint solutions and get their ‘buy in’.

Stick to Facts

The Law and consequences

Be Clear about False ‘Bravery’

Young people may fear the ridicule from peers if they run away, but this will pass. Sticking around may have serious long term effects. Practice ways of getting away with your child.

https://youtube.com/shorts/12HYR7wQ9ZE?feature=share

Help and Support

The Ben Kinsella Trust

Free learning resources and information for parents, teachers, practitioners, and young people
https://benkinsella.org.uk/resources/

Citizens Advice

If your child has been illegally sold a knife, you can report this to Trading Standards on 03454 04 05 06 or visit https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/ report-to-trading-standards/

Childline

Your child can call Childline on 0800 1111 at any time for support.

Fearless

A service that allows young people to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously. https://www.fearless.org/

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