

Carrying a Knife or Weapon

Is it worth the risk?



Carrying a Knife or Weapon is against the law

If you carry a knife or weapon to protect yourself or make yourself feel safe **YOU** are committing a crime - whether or not you intend to use it. **YOU** are also more likely to become a victim of crime as your own knife/ weapon can be used against **YOU** or **Someone Else**

If you are worried or feel you are in danger, tell a trusted adult (family member, teacher, Police officer, PCSO).

We will listen and help you feel safe.

Knife and/ or Weapon involved crimes include.....

Carrying or trying to buy a knife under the age of 18

- Threatening someone with a knife/ weapon
- Being in possession on a knife (including folding knife if the blade is 3 inches /7.26cm or more)
- Murder, manslaughter or assaults using a knife/ weapon
- Robbery and burglary using a knife/ weapon

The Consequences can be.....

- Possible imprisonment
- Fines
- Criminal Record
- Restrictions on travel

DO NOT carry a knife and/ or Weapon. If you are thinking about it, you are concerned about your safety or someone else's safety, or have been threatened then contact Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency. You can also ask to speak with a Force Youth Officer, Youth Justice Officer or contact your local Prevention Service Worker.

We can then support you, provide personal safety advice to help you feel safe. Ensuring communities are Safe and prevents **YOU** entering the criminal justice system.

Remember - the law is clear - if you choose to carry a weapon, you put your future in danger. If you don't take it with you, it won't be used. If you are caught illegally carrying a knife or weapon, including a gun, even an imitation one you will be arrested and prosecuted. It is no excuse to say it was for your own protection or you were carrying it for someone else.

It is illegal to carry an article with a blade or point or an offensive weapon in a public place

The Prevention of Crime Act 1953:

Prohibits the carrying of any offensive weapon in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse. A public place includes private premises to which the public have access. An offensive weapon is defined as any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person, or intended by the person for such use. These include items designed to cause serious injury, for example knuckledusters, hand claws and certain Martial Arts equipment, or those which can be easily concealed, including swordsticks and batons. Maximum penalty: Six months imprisonment and/or £5000 fine.

Having or Possession of an offensive weapon or bladed article in a public place

Section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 -Provides for the offence of having a/ possession of a bladed or pointed article in a public place. Any person who has an article to which this section applies with him in a public place shall be guilty of an offence.

Possession of an offensive weapon or bladed article on school premises

Under section 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 it is an offence for a person to have with him on school premises:

- An article to which section 139 of the 1988 Act applies (i.e. an article with a blade or sharp point other than a small folding pocketknife); or
- An offensive weapon within the meaning of section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953

Offensive Weapons Act 1996 - amended the 1988 Act

Prohibits the sale of knives and certain articles with a blade or point to persons under the age of 16. Maximum penalty: Six months imprisonment and/or £5000 fine.

Offensive Weapons Act 1996

This makes it an offence to sell to anyone under the age of 18 any knife, knife blade or razor blade, axe or any other article which has a blade or which is sharply pointed, and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person.

Stop and Search

The law gives police officers powers to stop and search you, including anything you are carrying, any vehicle you are in and can use reasonable force to do this. This includes searching for bladed articles, knives and any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to any person, or intended by the person for such use.

Advice for young people and parents is available: www.stop-watch.org

To report an incident or information please **contact 101 or 999** in an emergency.

The following advice and support is available:

www.childline.org.uk info-advice

www.knifecrimes.org

www.supportingvictims.org

crimestoppers-uk.org



Call free on 0808 168 9111



#LivesNotKnives

