



Useful information for parents/carers, children and young people about knife crime and what they can do if they are involved:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/crime-law/gun-knife-crime/>

Information for parents

<https://parentinfo.org/article/if-your-child-is-in-a-gang>

Information on the Knife Free Campaign

<https://www.knifefree.co.uk/go-knifefree/>

Primary school:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/nhttps://www.knifefree.co.uk/go-knifefree/ewsid_7300000/newsid_7306700/7306768.stm

(This is dated but relevant and is in child friendly language)

What the law says about gangs, knife crime and carrying a weapon

The law focuses on criminal behaviour. If an offender is part of a group or a gang, this may lead to a longer sentence.

- If your child's presence or actions lead to a crime they could be charged with the same offence as the main offender. For example, if they provided support or encouragement to a fellow gang member who committed a robbery or injured someone, they too could be charged with the offence. This is called joint enterprise.
- It is illegal to carry a knife in a public place, even if it belongs to someone else
- It is also illegal to carry a folding pocketknife if the edge of the blade exceeds 3 inches
- It is illegal to carry a pocketknife if the blade can be locked
- It is illegal to carry any knife, including folding knives, if there is intent to use it as a weapon, even if it belongs to someone else
- The maximum sentence for possessing a knife in a public place without a good excuse has been increased from two to four years for 16-17 year olds and adults
- It is illegal to keep any prohibited firearm, or to carry any firearm – including an imitation firearm – in public, even if you are carrying it for someone else



- The maximum sentence for unlawful possession of a prohibited firearm is 10 years. The minimum sentence is three years for 16-17 year olds and 5 years for adults
- Police can and will search someone if they believe they are carrying a gun, knife or other weapon
- Police and school staff can also search young people for weapons at school

You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. Call 999 in an emergency.

