

Hold onto a life.



Not a knife!



NTK
NO TO KNIVES



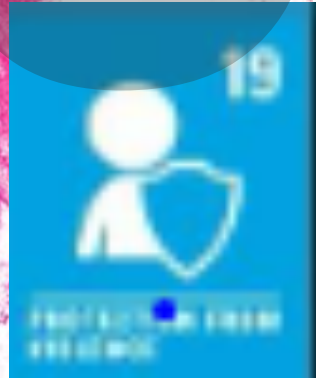
HELP EACH OTHER. STOP DESTROYING ONE ANOTHER

KNIFE CRIME

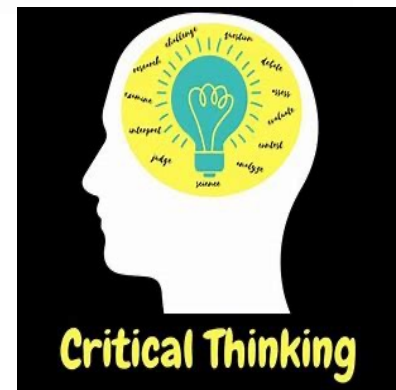
SAY NO TO KNIVES



No.6: Life, Survival & Development



No.19: Protection from Violence



Critical Thinking

What do we need to know about knife crime?

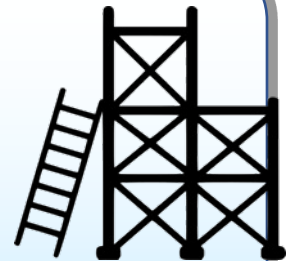
Isaac is 13. He's seen some scary things going on around his estate, all to do with local gangs. There was a lot of shouting last night. Now there's police outside and some blood on the car park, just outside his window.

Discuss: Do you think Isaac is in danger? In what ways might he be vulnerable, do you think?



Why do you think that knife crime and gang crime are so interlinked?

I think that knife crime and gang crime might be interlinked because...



Let us pray,

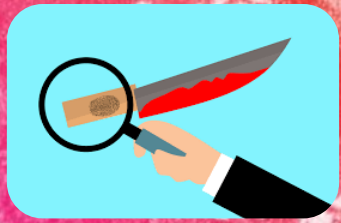
Loving God, you call us to turn our swords into ploughshares, and
our spears into pruning hooks.

Begin your work of transformation in all whose lives are
overshadowed by knife crime,
Replacing violence with peace, grief with consolation, fear with
your perfect love.

Where communities are broken, send your Holy Spirit to heal.
And show us how we can join in your great work of reconciliation,
As you mend and restore all things

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen



What do we need to know about knife crime?

Key terms:

Knife Crime - illegal activities involving knives, e.g. carrying a knife, using a knife as a weapon, hiding a knife used as a weapon, selling a knife or possessing a knife as a weapon.

Peer Pressure - The pressure felt to do what people in your age group are doing and to do what they want you to do.

Criminal gangs - a group with a defined leadership and internal organisation that identifies with or claims control over territory in a community and engages, either individually or collectively, in illegal, and possibly violent, behaviour.



What do we need to know about knife crime?

What's Happening?

Across Britain there's been a surge in violent knife crime. More than 37,000 knife offences in England and Wales were recorded last year alone, 21% more than in the previous 12 months. 285 people were killed.

People who carry guns or knives may not ever plan to use them or hurt anyone. But they may find themselves in a situation that gets out of control.

Someone might want to carry one because they:

- Are scared and worried about their safety or the safety of friends
- Want to show off and scare people
- Want respect from other people

More children are excluded from school – making them easy prey for gangs.

RISKS OF CARRYING A KNIFE

Go to prison for up to 4 years, regardless of your reasoning for carrying the knife.

Being a victim of crime and having the knife used against you.

You could kill someone and cause distress for their family. There is no 'safe place' to stab someone.

Ending up in hospital on life support with serious injuries.

You could cause your family and friends emotional distress and consequences.

You could make a bad situation worse by appearing to be a threat to others.

You could die!

You will get a criminal record for carrying a knife. Find it hard to get a job in the future. Cannot travel to certain countries.



How do we know if something is a crime?

Task One:

Knife crime, like all the types of crime can be classified into three different categories.



Type of crime

Crime against the person

Crime against the state

Crime against property

Definition

ANSWERS BEHIND BOX,
DELETE TO REVEAL



Task Two:

Read about the different crimes on the next slide and categorise them using the types of crimes below.

Explain your reasoning fully .



Crimes against who? Key or colour code each incident and explain your answer

Categories for crimes: Colour?

Property crimes

Crimes against the person

Crimes against the state

Crimes - some may be more than one colour (colour according to your code)	Why do you think the crime fits into that category?
Mo's best friend had asked him to keep a gun safe for him. Mo was scared and kept it under his bed in a box. Mo never touched it himself.	
Daniel had his own business. He didn't pay his tax on time. He was arrested for tax evasion.	
Jamal got into a fight over a stolen mobile phone. He was attacked and the police were called.	
Alex felt bad for stealing Tom's pen. Even though it was just a pen, he knew he'd broken the law.	
Sarah had always wanted to know what was in the warehouse over the road from her house, so she trespassed into the property.	
Eligah took a knife into college. He wasn't going to hurt anyone with it, he just wanted to show it off. It was a kitchen knife from home.	
Sheila filled in her benefits form saying she wasn't working, but she actually had a cash-in-hand job selling make-up at the rag market.	
Dave had an on-going row with his neighbour about where he had built a new fence. Dave said it went over his property.	
Sam broke into a house and stole a laptop. A child was there, so Sam covered his eyes and locked him in a cupboard.	
Zara's cousin in Iran wasn't allowed to go out the house with her hair uncovered, as her country was ruled by Sharia Law.	
Charlie bought a gun off the 'dark web'. A dodgy part of the internet. She thought her actions couldn't be tracked by the police.	

Type of crime

Definition

Crime against the person

wrongdoing that directly harms a person, e.g. murder
common assault, rape, theft

Crime against the state

an offence aimed at damaging the government or a country, e.g. treason, benefit fraud, tax evasion

Crime against property

damaging items that belong to somebody else, e.g. vandalism

What type of crime

Which category?

Seb's best friend had asked him to keep a gun safe for him. Seb was scared and kept it under his bed in a box. Seb never touched it himself.

Daniel had his own business. He didn't pay his tax on time. He was arrested for tax evasion.

Jamal got into a fight over a stolen mobile phone. He was attacked and the police were called.

Alex felt bad for stealing Tom's pen. Even though it was just a pen, he knew he'd broken the law.

Sarah had always wanted to know what was in the warehouse over the road from her house, so she trespassed into the property.

Elijah's took a knife into college. He wasn't going to hurt anyone with it, he just wanted to show it off. It was a kitchen knife from home.

Charlie bought a gun off the 'dark web'. A dodgy part of the internet. She thought her actions couldn't be tracked by the police.

What do we need to know about knife crime?

Task Three:

We will now find out more about what exactly we mean when we talk about knife crime, why it's such a problem in the UK and how it's related to gang crime.



POPCORN READING!

We will take it in turns to read. When you have finished reading a paragraph, the next person will volunteer to read. Listen carefully as discussion questions will follow.



What is knife crime, and how does it relate to gang crime?

Knife crime refers to any criminal activity that involves the use of a knife or sharp object as a weapon. This can include carrying a knife with the intention to use it for violence, using a knife to threaten or harm someone, or using a knife in the commission of a crime such as robbery or burglary. Knife crime is a serious problem in many parts of the world, and it can have devastating consequences for victims, their families, and communities.

The use of knives as weapons has been a longstanding issue in many societies, including the UK. In recent times, however, the rise of knife crime has become a major concern in many countries, especially in urban areas. According to official statistics, knife crime has been on the rise in many countries over the past decade, with some areas reporting sharp increases in incidents involving knives.

There are many factors that contribute to the rise of knife crime. Some of the most common causes include gang activity, drug use, poverty, social exclusion, and mental health issues. In some cases, individuals may carry knives for self-protection or as a result of peer pressure. Whatever the underlying causes, knife crime can have severe consequences for both the victim and the perpetrator. Victims of knife crime may suffer serious injuries or even death, while perpetrators can face long prison sentences and a lifetime of social stigma.



Here are some worrying recent statistics about knife crime in the UK:

- **In the year ending March 2021, there were 46,265 knife crime offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. This represents a 9% increase from the previous year.**
- **The majority of knife crime offences in the UK are concentrated in urban areas, with London and other major cities reporting the highest number of incidents.**
- **Young people are disproportionately affected by knife crime, both as perpetrators and victims. In the year ending March 2021, 40% of those convicted or cautioned for knife crime in England and Wales were aged between 10 and 19.**
- **The use of knives in murders has also increased in recent years. In the year ending March 2021, there were 273 murders recorded in England and Wales where a knife or sharp instrument was used - an increase of 4% from the previous year.**
- **The ONS also reports that Black and Asian individuals are more likely to be victims of knife crime than those from other ethnic groups. However, it is important to note that knife crime affects individuals from all backgrounds and communities.**



To combat knife crime, many governments have implemented a range of measures, including:

- Tougher laws on the possession and use of knives
- Increased police presence in high-risk areas
- Educational campaigns to raise awareness about the dangers of carrying and using knives.

Some communities have also developed grassroots initiatives to tackle knife crime, such as mentoring programs for at-risk youth, community-led efforts to remove weapons from the streets, and support services for victims of knife crime.



It may not surprise you to learn that knife crime and gang crime are closely connected, with many incidents of knife crime being linked to gang activity. In fact, gangs are often involved in a significant proportion of knife crime incidents, both as perpetrators (criminals) and victims. Gangs can provide a sense of belonging and identity for vulnerable young people who may be struggling with poverty, social exclusion, or other challenges. However, they can also be a source of violence, intimidation, and criminal activity.

Gangs often use violence and intimidation to maintain control over their territory, protect their criminal activities, and settle disputes with rival gangs. In many cases, knives are used as a weapon of choice in these confrontations, making knife crime a common feature of gang-related violence. The use of knives can be seen as a way to assert dominance and intimidate rivals, as well as to inflict serious harm on victims. Young people who become involved in gangs may also be at increased risk of carrying knives themselves. This can be due to peer pressure, a desire for protection, or a need to prove their loyalty to the gang. Carrying a knife can also be seen as a way to gain status within the gang, as it demonstrates a willingness to use violence to protect the group's interests.

We will see shortly just how devastating knife crime can be, not just on the victims themselves, but also their families, and as they are convicted and come to realise their horrific mistakes, the perpetrators too.

What do we need to know about knife crime?

Task Three Continued:

Now discuss the questions below based on the popcorn reading information.

- Identify four common causes of knife crime.
- How does peer pressure contribute to knife crime?
- Which of the statistics do you think is the most concerning? Explain why.
- What kind of measures have governments taken to try and prevent knife crime?
- How do gangs control their 'territories'?
- Explain the link some gang members see between knives and status?
- How do you think people who are not in gangs view this idea?
- What would you say to a friend who is being pressured by a gang to carry a knife?

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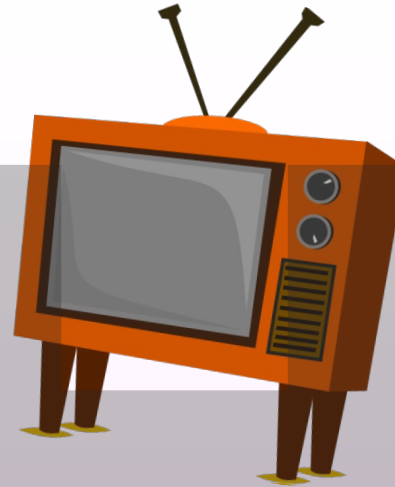
Questions – answer in your books:

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- How do you think people who are not in gangs view this idea?
- What would you say to a friend who is being pressured by a gang to carry a knife? Explain in two paragraphs the advice you would give them.

Task Four:

How are lives changed forever
by knife crime?

WATCH THIS
VIDEO!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqiMAJ8IEDU>

Consequences of knife crime - watch and discuss the following questions.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cetu_tgYN4k

- Why was the victim stabbed?
 - What did the murderer do straight after?
 - Which loved ones does the victim leave behind?
 - What is 'life-long guilt' and why does this affect the murderer?
 - How many years does the murderer spend in prison?
 - Can the murderer ever live a carefree life now? Why not?
-
- What point does the clip make about the state of mind of murderers long after crimes?
 - Why does the murderer become careless and sloppy?
 - Why does the murderer never recover from the crime?
 - How true to life do you think this story is? Explain.



How are lives changed forever by knife crime?

What happened to James?

He was run over and stabbed by two rival gangs.

What does James now think about when he thinks of the future?

Nothing.

What kind of struggles have James' family had?

They had to move to a specially adapted house (and fight for it), James has medication and physical therapy, the family have had to have therapy. They had to go to court and see justice was done. He has to use a wheelchair, younger family members have been threatened and have to have counselling. They have had money worries and flashbacks.

How many children in England are currently vulnerable to involvement in, or being a victim of, violence?

200,000

What happened to Armani?

He was groomed into being part of county lines (drug running), who was fortunately able to turn his life around and now fights for changes to protect young people. He was given hope by family, youth workers and teachers and says we need more of this for young people.

Why do so many young people get involved in gangs?

To make money.



Why does the UK have such a problem with knife crime?

Knife crime is a complex issue that has been a longstanding problem in the UK. There is no single explanation for why the UK has such a problem with knife crime, but a combination of social, economic, and cultural factors contribute to the issue.



- Read the following factors and discuss why you think each of these contributes to knife crime.
- Which do you think is the most significant cause. Why?

Social factors:

Social factors such as poverty, inequality, and social exclusion play a significant role in the prevalence of knife crime. Young people who come from low-income backgrounds, are unemployed, or have a history of offending are more likely to be involved in knife crime. They often lack opportunities for education, training, and employment, and may feel a sense of hopelessness about their future prospects.

Cultural factors:

Cultural factors such as the glorification of violence and the glamorization of gang culture can also contribute to knife crime. Some young people may feel that being part of a gang is their only option, and they may feel a sense of pride and belonging in carrying a weapon. Moreover, some subcultures and music genres such as drill music can promote violence and aggression.

Availability of knives:

The availability of knives is another factor that contributes to knife crime. Knives are readily available, and some people may carry them for self-defence or for use in criminal activities. Some people may also feel that carrying a knife gives them a sense of power or control.

Economic factors:

Economic factors such as austerity measures, cuts to public services, and the lack of investment in communities can intensify the problem of knife crime. The closure of youth clubs, community centres, and other vital resources for young people means that there are fewer positive opportunities for young people to engage in.

Police approach:

The police approach to tackling knife crime has also been criticized. Some critics argue that the police have been too focused on stop and search tactics, which disproportionately target young people from ethnic minority backgrounds. This has led to a breakdown in trust between the police and some communities.

Carrying knives or other weapons

Understand the consequences

- Carrying a knife or any weapon isn't a good idea. Some people carry a knife because they think 'everyone else is' but that's not the case - 99 per cent of young people in the UK don't carry a knife.
- Some young people think if you carry a knife then it will provide protection. But statistics show that if you carry a knife or weapon then you are more likely to end up being hurt. You can be seen as threatening. You might also end up being hurt by your own weapon. **It is also illegal to carry knives and other weapons.**
- You might think you'll be respected or even feared for carrying a weapon. But all it really does is put you, your friends and family in danger.
- Carrying a knife or gun increases your risk of being injured.
- It also increases the risk of the people around you being injured, and can cause great distress and upset to your family.
- Police are allowed to stop and search someone if they believe a weapon is being carried.
- Having a criminal record could stop you gaining entry into your chosen college or university, getting a job and could place restrictions on you travelling to some countries like the United States of America.
- You could go to jail for up to four years if you're found in possession of a knife or five years for a gun, even if you're carrying it for someone else.
- In the worst case scenario, you could get life imprisonment for murder.
- While walking away is often the hardest thing to do, it is the safest and won't get you into trouble with the police.

YR ANGEL CYLLYLL

FRIARS WALK, CASNEWYDD

TACHWEDD 2022

THE KNIFE ANGEL

FRIARS WALK, NEWPORT

NOVEMBER 2022



A giant angel sculpture, made from more than 100,000 knives, came to Gwent in November 2022 as part of a national anti-violence tour.

The 27ft Knife Angel was installed at Friars Walk in Newport and stood tall as a prominent reminder of the devastating effects of violence and aggression.

The Knife Angel is made from knives surrendered at amnesties across the UK and messages of hope from the families of victims have been engraved into its wings. It has visited 27 towns and cities across the UK since it began its national tour in 2018.

What do we need to know about knife crime?

Signposting support



If you, or someone you know, are affected by any of the issues raised you can contact the following organisations for further help and guidance or you can speak with a trusted adult.

- <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/>
- <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/about-the-charity/who-we-work-with/trusts-and-foundations/county-lines>
- <https://www.fearless.org/en/campaigns/county-lines>

The Crimestoppers hotline is anonymous – **0800 555 111**
Call **999** if you think there is an immediate danger.