



Safeguarding 8

Carrying a knife

Oxwell Survey results



The Oxwell survey in June 2025 told us that:

- 25 students in Key Stage 3 said they had carried a knife
- 4 students in Key Stage 4 said they had carried a knife
- 9 students in Key stage 5 said they had carried a knife



What is knife crime?

Knife crime is any crime involving a knife or sharp object.

This includes:

- Carrying a knife (except for a knife with a folding blade of less than 3 inches)
- Owning a banned knife
- Threatening, injuring or fatally wounding someone with a knife
- Trying to buy a knife if you are under 18
- Self-defence or self-protection are **not** valid reasons for carrying a knife or offensive weapon.

Legal or illegal?



1. A shopkeeper sells a knife to a 17-year-old.
2. A young person takes their brother's fishing knife to the park to show their friends.
3. In an argument between two young people, one takes out a penknife and uses it to threaten the other.
4. A person carries a knife for protection
5. A teacher searches a pupil who they suspect has a knife or weapon without the pupil's permission

Scenario

Rani is 14. She is being bullied by students from another school on the way to and from school and is scared every day. A few weeks ago, she took a Stanley knife out of her Dad's toolbox and put it in her school bag. She thinks if the bullying gets too bad, she can threaten them with the knife.



If Rani is caught with a knife



1. She will be interviewed about the offence by the police.
2. She will be sent to the Youth Justice Service who will decide if she should receive an outcome (for example a caution), she will also get a programme of support.
3. If Rani has previous convictions for possessing a blade or sharply pointed article, she would attend court and may receive a community order or custody.

What if things go further?



- If Rani threatened someone with the knife, she could be charged. This will result in a referral to the Youth Justice Service for assessment and intervention, and will lead to a community order or custody.
- If Rani stabbed someone with the knife she could be charged with assault including murder. This will result in a referral to the Youth Justice Service for assessment and intervention, and will lead to a high-level community order or custody.

Other possible consequences



- Peers not wanting to be friends with her
- Fear/judgement
- Further trouble because people think she is aggressive
- Disruption to education
- Suspension or exclusion from school
- Future opportunities, e.g. college, universities, jobs
- Foreign travel
- Injury to Rani or others
- Death
- Change of school
- Timetable and teacher changes
- Alternative provision placement
- Damage to family relationships
- Possible criminal record

Reporting a crime



- If you know someone is carrying a knife, in school tell a teacher, out of school call 999 as soon as possible.
- If you know someone who has carried a knife in the past tell a teacher or call 101.
- If you want to give information anonymously, you can go through Crimestoppers Fearless Youth Service on 0800 555 111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless