

Knife crime

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Fatal stabbing in Kingsthorpe



This is Rohan Shand, known as Fred to his friends and family.

He died of a single stab wound following an incident at 15:30 on Wednesday 22nd March.

He was in Year 11, preparing for his GCSEs and the future beyond, when he was killed.

Members of the community gathered to honour his memory and lay flowers at the scene.

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Why does it happen? Why do people carry knives?
What influences the way that people behave?

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Think. Pair. Share.

1. I would never use a knife.
2. People only carry knives for protection.
3. I wouldn't be worried if my child carried a knife when they are older.
4. It is easier to use a knife than have a fight.
5. Stab or be stabbed.
6. I might carry a weapon because everyone else does.
7. People who carry knives are stupid.
8. You need to carry a knife where I live.
9. Lots of people say they are carrying knives to show off, but don't really.
10. Knives are a problem but the media makes it sound worse than it is.

Which of these are examples of knife crime?

1. Carrying a knife
2. Telling people you are carrying a knife when you are not
3. Trying to buy a knife if you are under 18
4. Threatening someone with a knife
5. Reporting someone who carries a knife to the police
6. Owning a banned knife
7. Injuring or fatally wounding somebody with a knife
8. Intent to injure or harm somebody with a knife
9. A robbery or burglary where a knife was carried as a weapon

Knife crime is **any crime involving a knife**. The knife doesn't have to be used for it to be considered a knife crime.

- Carrying a knife
- Telling people you are carrying a knife when you are not
- Trying to buy a knife if you are under 18
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Myth or fact?

1. Knife crime only impacts the lives of those involved. MYTH	2. It is legal to carry a knife for your own protection. MYTH	3. Most young people use knives in the home. MYTH	4. Once you have started carrying a knife, you can't stop. MYTH
5. If you stab someone and they die, you go to prison for life. FACT	6. There are 'safe' places to stab someone so you might get away with it but they won't die. MYTH	7. People who carry weapons are never in trouble. MYTH	8. It is illegal to buy a knife if you are under 18. FACT

This is Ryan's story



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This is Stuart Lawrence – younger brother of Stephen Lawrence, who also died on 22nd March (but 30 years earlier) in an unprovoked, racially motivated attack.

He has spent his life dedicated to helping others make the choice *not* to carry a knife.



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What do you think?



Dante

I think lots of people my age carry knives. I was watching the news and they said that there is a knife crime problem in schools.



Chloe

I wouldn't carry a knife, but I don't think you should get in trouble for carrying one for protection.



Mya

Some of my friends from outside of school said it is better to carry a knife in case you are attacked. I don't agree – it is dangerous and illegal.



Ollie

If I knew a friend was carrying a knife I wouldn't report it because I'm not a snitch.

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What do the police say?



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Did you know?

- The age of criminal responsibility is 10 years old.
- For simply carrying a knife in a public place or on school premises, the maximum penalty if convicted is four years in prison. Those found on more than one occasion to be in possession of a knife face a minimum sentence of six months.
- If someone is injured or killed by a knife while you are present, you too could be prosecuted. You could potentially be sent to prison for murder in a '**joint enterprise**'.

Who can help?

Almost all young people have never and will never carry a knife.

*However, if you know someone who does carry a knife, or if you are carrying a knife you can get help before you get into trouble and **before** you are injured or killed.*

Where can people get help?

- School
- CIRV
- Fearless.org
- *Knife amnesty bins*



*Knife amnesty bin
(Source: BBC)*

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What can we do?

- Remember that it is RARE. Most young people do not carry knives.
- Tell someone you trust if you are in trouble. If someone is pressuring you to carry a knife – or another weapon – talk to someone.
- If you're worried about a friend, speak up. It's not snitching – it may well save their life – and perhaps someone else's too. Share with a teacher, a family member or another trusted adult.
- Pray for the families of victims of knife crime and for those who have committed it.

Closing Prayer

Father God,

We lift to you the family and friends of Rohan (Fred) Shand and for the community in Kingsthorpe. We pray that they know your love and peace.

We also lift to you the victims of knife crime whose lives have been forever changed. We ask that you bring them peace and hope for a brighter future.

Lord, please help us to work together to eradicate knife crime, so that everyone can live safely and grow up without this threat.

Amen.