

Nottinghamshire Police Knife Crime Education in Schools

Save a life, bin the knife

#stopviolence #livesnotknives Carrying a knife does not protect you – it puts you at greater risk of harm.



Our Knife Crime Strategy

Use communications and engagement activity to support Nottinghamshire Police and its key partners, including Nottinghamshire's Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), in their joint efforts to reduce incidents of knife crime.

Highlight the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife.

Enhance public confidence in Nottinghamshire Police and its partners in dealing effectively with knife crime.

Reassure the public that the force is continuing to work all year round, working closely with its partners, to make our streets safer and drive down knife crime as part of a unified 'one team' Nottinghamshire approach.

Raise awareness of the variety of ongoing work being done to tackle knife crime in Nottinghamshire and keep people safe.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams

Engagement in primary schools – early years, showcasing that police are here to help, building early relationships and trust from a young age. Showing of police uniform/cars.

PCSOs across the County deliver some knife crime inputs to primary schools following advice from School and Early Intervention Officers regarding content and age appropriateness. PCSOs attend primary schools to talk about 'staying safe' and where applicable will address knife crime.

Officers and PCSOs engage with colleges and further education providers across the county, including careers and 'freshers' weeks and provide knife crime inputs as required.

Always remember

Carrying a knife does not protect you – it puts you at greater risk of harm.

Knife crime has a huge impact on the entire community from the victim to the offender, their families and everyone else connected to them.

Nottinghamshire Police treats knife crime seriously and has two dedicated knife crime teams committed to tackling the issue and preventing crime.

Knife crime can't be reduced with enforcement alone. Education is a key factor in preventing knife crime from happening in the first place and to help achieve this the force has School and Early Intervention Officers who engage with young people and educate them of the dangers of knife crime. Help is out there for victims of knife crime and people who need support in pursuing positive lifestyles.

The continued support of the community is absolutely vital in helping to tackle knife crime. It's a 'one team' mentality to tackle the issue and we need members of the public to report information about knife crime and suspicious activity in their communities to us. By reporting information to us at an early stage it could be the difference in preventing a serious offence or helping stop someone becoming involved in knife crime or violence.

Mini Police

Mini Police is an engagement scheme designed to improve citizenship within our communities and give young children the opportunity to learn about safety, their role within the community and how the police work to keep them safe.

The scheme is aimed at children in school years five and six (ages 9-11) and focuses on the contribution young people can make to their communities. The scheme will improve the relationship between the police and the communities they serve and provide young people with a voice to say what matters to them and to influence people around them in a positive way.

Mini Police schools receive a knife crime delivery as part of the programme. After this, it is the Mini Police themselves who tell the rest of the school about what they have learned – whether this is on a newsletter, noticeboard, website or even in assembly – helping Nottinghamshire Police to spread important messages about keeping safe.

Mini police are given the opportunity to attend the Ben Kinsella Choices and Consequences exhibition at the National Justice Museum.

The Street Aware Programme is delivered by a PCSO. The Street Aware Package involves an hour's presentation on knife crime and also an hour's session on criminal gangs. The sessions are delivered to children in Year 6 at primary school.

The aim of the knife crime lesson is to give the children an understanding of the law about knives; know the school rules about knives; know the risks with carrying knives and know where and how to get help. The deliveries are interactive and the children are asked for their knowledge on the subjects before and after the lessons.

School and Early Intervention Officers (SEIOs)

SEIOs work in secondary schools and Alternative Provisions (APs) across the whole county and have allocated schools in which they work, so they are able to develop relationships with their school, the school community and pupils and promote engagement with the Police.

SEIOs all have or are working towards a Level 3 teaching qualification.

SEIOs complete one to one interventions, where the school have

highlighted a particular student who they are concerned about being involved with knives or for those who they think are heading down the wrong path.

SEIOs work closely with partners such as Tackling Emerging Threats to Children (TETC) team and the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) to support young people.

SEIOs are trained to deliver the Choices and Consequences Ben Kinsella Workshop at the National Justice Museum.

SEIOs deliver age related knife crime inputs to small groups, classes, year groups or whose school assemblies:

Key Stage 3 input – looks at what knife crime is, the legal consequences of carrying a knife and highlights that less than 1% of young people carry a knife meaning it's not the 'norm'. The presentation also asks students to share any concerns they may have and encourages them to do the right thing if they know someone who is carrying a knife. This presentation also explores joint enterprise and gets them thinking about their friendship groups.

Key Stage 4/5 input – covers the same as above but looks more in detail at the effects of knife crime. It includes videos of real-life stories and the impact that has had on both the victim's and suspect's families, which are emotive and impactful. This presentation also has true and false style questions which promotes conversation and asks students to think about what impact the media and social media have on knife crime. The presentation also explores a real-life case study of joint-enterprise and how an issue that started on social media escalated to point where a young person lost their life to knife crime. Reference is also made to 'snitching' and that it is actually about doing the right thing.

Knife crime card game. A series of statements relating to knife crime are printed on individual cards. In one to one sessions or small groups, the students are asked to go through the 28 cards and decide which ones they think are true or false. Once they have sorted the cards, each one will be discussed, and conversation had about their reasoning behind why they thought it was true or false. This is a good conversation starter and challenges their existing thoughts and knowledge.

All presentations delivered by SEIOs include the promotion of Fearless. Fearless is a site where young people can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality and provide information about crime 100% anonymously.

SEIOs provide advice and guidance to schools via local authorities and Dedicated Safeguarding Leads on what to do in the event of a student having a knife in school. A flowchart is provided to schools to assist with this.



Early Police Alert to Schools (EPAS)

The EPAS is a notification sent to a student's school if they have been involved in a weapons offence or serious violence, whether as a suspect, witness or victim. This is so that the school are aware that the student may not perform as well and may be in need of support. The form provides the school details of the officer in the case and the relevant SEIO in case they require further information.

A PC within the SEIO team is responsible for completing the EPAS and sending it to the relevant Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at the school.

Statistics from the EPAS notifications are shared with Neighbourhood Policing Teams, SEIOs, DSLs and the VRP so that resources and funding can be targeted where needed most.

Volunteer Police Cadets

Nottinghamshire Police runs a Volunteer Police Cadet (VPC) programme, engaging with students age 11-18 weekly during term time. Cadets learn about policing and how to be a good citizen and make a difference in their communities.

Cadets receive education inputs and visits from internal police departments where they learn more about knife crime. All cadets have the opportunity to attend the Ben Kinsella Choices and Consequences exhibition at the National Justice Museum. Cadets also take part in Operation Sceptre twice per year, which is a national campaign relating to knife crime. This can include assisting the force with test purchase operations, weapons sweeps and delivering important messages in the community about knife crime alongside Nottinghamshire Police.

Information that the cadets receive about knife crime, filters through into their home, school and community.

Our Partners

