

Parents often ask our advice about how they can ensure their child is kept safe at home and in the community.

All children can be vulnerable sometimes, and as a parent it is only natural to worry about their safety.

We have consulted with our local Community Police Officer, PC Tracy Sadler, and looked online for the best advice. These tips have been published by the Northern Ireland Govt (NIDirect) and we feel they provide a great start for parents.

If you are worried, you can help to protect your young children with these common-sense tips.

If you need any further advice, you can always speak to the Headteacher or contact the school. Details are below.

New End Primary School

Streatley Place

Hampstead

London NW3 1HU

Phone: 020 7431 0961

admin@newend.camden.sch.uk

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE

Keeping your child
safe from knife
crime

Living in London it is impossible to avoid hearing about the increasing number of incidents where teenagers have been killed or injured by someone using a knife as a weapon. It's important to know all about the laws that control who can carry and buy a knife.

Parents can play an important role in stopping knife crime becoming a part of your child's life. Knowing the law, talking to your child about the dangers and looking out for changes in their behaviour can help keep them safe.

Know the law

Before talking to your child about knives, you need to know the facts:

- it is illegal for anyone to carry a knife if they plan to use it as a weapon – even in self defence
- police can search anyone they suspect of carrying a knife
- carrying a knife could mean being arrested, going to court and getting a criminal record, or even a prison sentence

Carrying a knife

Some young people say that they carry a knife for protection or to make them feel safer, even though they wouldn't think of using it. However, research has shown that you're actually more likely to become a victim of crime if you're carrying a knife.

In some cases, teens have been injured or killed by someone else using the knife they were carrying.

Young people need to understand that there are much safer and easier ways to protect themselves.

Talking to your child about knives

The best way to stop your child getting involved with knives is to talk to them about the dangers. This may not be easy as they may not want to talk about it, but keep trying as this is the first step to keeping your child safe.

You should remind them that by carrying a knife they are:

- giving themselves a false sense of security
- potentially arming an attacker, increasing the risk of getting stabbed or injured
- breaking the law

Keep a look out

Sometimes there might be obvious reasons for you to think your child is carrying a knife – such as a knife going missing from the kitchen.

However, there are other more subtle signs that you and the parents of your child's friends can look out for such as:

- school's not going well or they don't want to go in to school at all
- they've been a recent victim of theft/bullying/mugging
- a different network of friends who may be older than your child

Carrying a knife could also be a sign that your child is involved in gang related crime. For further information on what to do to help prevent your child from joining a gang or if you believe your child is involved in this type of activity, the websites below are suggested by the police to provide further information.

<https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/information-and-services/Advice/Gangs/Gangs>

<https://noknivesbetterlives.com/parents/>

This website also has a page for young people.

<https://noknivesbetterlives.com/young-people/>