

What to say to my children when we talk about/if they ask about:

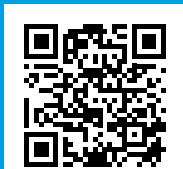
Knife Awareness

Be prepared:

You are a parent/carer, not a medical or legal expert. You aren't expected to know everything. It's OK to check things and look things up but remember, some online sites aren't reliable. Our family hub has some reliable and trusted sites with more information to help you:

Scan here

<https://link.lsec.uk/family-hub>



Pick the time and place. A calm, quiet place where you won't be overheard or interrupted is best.



The facts, useful information and how to word things:

In this country it's illegal to carry a knife in public without good reason.

Carrying a knife to feel safe or for self-defence is not a legal reason; in fact, people who carry knives are far more likely to get hurt, often with their own knife.

The Police can stop and search anyone they believe is carrying a knife.

Getting a criminal record can affect your ability to get certain jobs.

You can get into trouble by just being with someone who is carrying a knife.

The legal age to buy a knife is 18. All sharp knives are sold in packaging and should be taken straight home and not removed until safely inside.

Some jobs and hobbies may involve using a knife. They must always be stored safely with other tools or equipment.

The vast majority of young people do not carry knives.

We often hear about incidents on the news and they dominate the headlines for a few days. No one reports the days when there have been no incidents.

What skills should you talk about as well?

Our approach is that children are best armed with accurate facts and information from the programmes used in school and what you discuss with them. Alongside this, they need strategies and skills to say No if they need to. Visit our Family Hub to find out and reinforce the strategies your children have been taught during the Life Skills Programme.

These include:

- Dealing with stress and peer pressure.
- Communicating clearly when saying No.
- The MATES resistance strategies.
- Considering risk and consequence within our SKILL decision-making model.

This guidance is designed to help you if your child is taking part in one of the Life Skills programmes at school. Its content relates to the topics covered in this programme. The school's PSHE scheme may include other topics.