



**Your Voice.
Your Choice.**



Group agreement

- We will listen to, and be respectful of, other's opinions, even if we disagree.
- We will not share personal stories or use this space to disclose information about crime. We understand that if we share information that indicates a risk to ours, or others safety, our teacher will share that information with the designated safeguarding lead.
- We can pass on activities or questions that make us feel uncomfortable.
- If we are worried about a situation, we will speak to a teacher or trusted adult privately after class (or use the resources shared at the end of this presentation).

What else would you like to include?

Your Voice. Your Choice.

Your voice, Your choice video: [Click to watch](#)

Discussion prompts:

1. What do you think is happening in the video?
2. Think about the different characters – Alex, Alex’s mum, teacher, members in the gang – explore the situation from each of their perspectives and how they might be feeling.
3. Even though we don’t see a knife in the video, it is implied that Alex is worried one of the gang members is carrying a knife, and that the bullying he’s experiencing might escalate. What are your views on knife crime? What do you see/hear on social media, the news, music about knife crime and how does it impact you?

Why would a young person carry a knife?

Protection

Everyone else is

To act 'tough'

Initiation

Forced / Coerced

Previous victim

Peer pressure

Gang affiliation

For someone else

Learnt behaviour

Not physically
strong

Glamorised

TRUE or FALSE ?

TRUE or FALSE ?

Carrying a knife keeps you safer

TRUE or FALSE ?

Carrying a knife keeps you safer

FALSE

TRUE or FALSE ?

Most young people carry knives

TRUE or FALSE ?

Most young people carry knives

FALSE

TRUE or FALSE ?

**There are safe places on the body
to stab someone**

TRUE or FALSE ?

**There are safe places on the body
to stab someone**

FALSE

Know the facts of knife crime

It's illegal to:

- use any knife, weapon or sharp instrument e.g. a screwdriver, in a threatening way

It's also illegal to:

- carry most knives or any weapons in public without a 'good reason'*
- sell most knives or any weapons to anyone under the age of 18

The exception to these two rules are folding pocket knives that:

- have a cutting edge no longer than 3 inches
- are not lock knives (they do not have a button, spring or catch that you have to use to fold the knife)

If the knife or weapon is not banned, some examples of 'good reasons' include for **work, for **religious reasons**, such as the kirpan some Sikhs carry or as part of any **national costume**. Your local police can advise on what counts as a 'good reason'.*

Know the risks and consequences

The effects of knife crime aren't always what you think of first:

- Prison sentence of up to four years
- Impact on family/loved ones
- If you get convicted of a knife crime, you'll have a criminal record which can affect employment prospects
- Lots of countries don't let people in who have criminal records

How can you be safe?

Some ways that you can help keep yourself and others safe:

- Don't carry a knife
- Don't hang out with people who carry knives
- Don't go to places where you feel unsafe
- If you think that someone is carrying a knife, speak to an adult you trust
- Get involved in activities in your spare time

**Don't be a bystander,
be a friend.**



Bystander effect



The bystander effect is a social psychology theory that suggests **a person is less likely to help in an emergency or problematic situation when others are present.** There are lots of reasons why people may not intervene.

The “power of one” is the ability of a single individual to overcome this effect by taking action and inspiring others to do the same.

Bystander > Active bystander

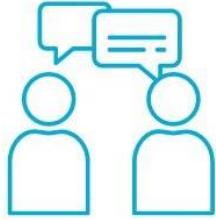
A **bystander** is a friend, class-mate or person who sees or becomes aware of something and **is in a position to take action.**

If they take action, they become an 'active bystander'.

You should only take action if it is safe to do so.

Always think of your own safety first.

Active Bystander Toolkit – The 5 D's



Direct

We can directly intervene in a situation, but we should only do so if it is safe and we don't put ourselves at risk.



Distract

Interrupting, starting a conversation or coming up with ways to get a victim out of a situation could all be forms of distraction. This can give us time to talk.



Delegate

Speak with your friends. Work out what to do together. Or speak to someone you trust who may be better equipped to deal with the situation.



Document

In some situations this may be the only option. Make a note of or record what's happened. This can help explain to others why you are concerned.



Delay

Sooner rather than later but better late than never. Intervention can still be effective after the event or the next day.

Snitching v Reporting

Snitching

- To get someone else into trouble.
- To stop yourself getting into trouble.
- To gain something from it.
- To hurt or upset someone you don't like.

Reporting

- To keep yourself safe.
- To keep someone else/others safe.
- The problem is serious.
- You may need an adult's help.
- Speaking up because you know something is wrong.

What is Fearless?

Fearless is part of the independent charity Crimestoppers and was set up especially for young people. **You can report any information you have about crime 100% anonymously using the online form at fearless.org or by calling 0800 555 111.**

Find out more: [How it works video](#)

Visit the website: fearless.org

Who can you speak to?



The **Ben Kinsella** Trust

Parent / carer



Teacher



The Children's Society



COPING WITH THE EFFECTS OF CRIME TOGETHER

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.

No knives, better lives.

www.noknivesbetterlives.com



An adult you trust



This presentation accompanies the Your Voice, Your Choice lesson plan, created as part of a knife crime awareness campaign launched by Fearless and SkillZONE.

Find out more: [Your Voice Your Choice | Fearless.org](#)