



**StreetWIZE**  
PROJECT

## Your voice, Your choice Lesson Plan

A single period lesson plan covering  
knife crime, how to be an active bystander  
and raising awareness of Fearless.org





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# What is Fearless?

**Fearless is the dedicated youth service from the independent charity Crimestoppers.**

Developed through consultation with young people, Fearless aims to break down any barriers that might prevent young people from reporting crime. Whether this is a fear of the process or a distrust of the police, we want to empower young people to speak up. We do this by promoting our unique service that gives anyone the opportunity to speak up to stop crime, 100% anonymously.

## How does it work?

Young people can pass on information about crime 100% anonymously via the online form on our website, Fearless.org or by calling our 0800 555 111 phone line. Our service is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

After receiving the call or a completed anonymous online form, we create a report that brings together all the information given to us. Our specially trained contact centre staff make sure it doesn't contain any information that could identify who or where the information came from, protecting anonymity.

The anonymous report is then sent to the relevant authority with the legal responsibility to investigate crimes, make arrests and charge people in order to bring them to justice. This could be a local police force or an agency such as the UK Border Agency or HM Revenue & Customs.

## Anonymity Promise

Anonymous means that your identity is completely unknown.

Our promise of anonymity is vital to us as it is what makes our charity unique.

We guarantee to young people, indeed everyone, that:

- They can give us information about crime without giving their name or any personal details.
- They will not be asked for their gender or age.
- We will not record any personal details they might mention.
- We physically cannot trace their phone number, email or IP address as our system is designed to protect their identity.

**For more information:**

[fearless.org/professionals](https://fearless.org/professionals)



# About this resource

SkillZone is an interactive life skills village in Gloucestershire where people of all ages can learn how to keep themselves safe whether at home or in their community. Fearless, and our message of speaking up, is a key element of SkillZone's work to help young people stay safe from crime and exploitation. We've partnered together to encourage conversations about knife crime and to empower young people to make the right choices, using their voice to speak up if they're worried about someone carrying a knife.

The lesson plan provides information about Fearless.org and discusses the barriers to reporting crime, including the myths around snitching with activities aimed at exploring the who, why, what and how of speaking up about crime - all designed to be delivered in one lesson, or split up and run in more depth over a number of lessons.

This resource has been adapted from Fearless Scotland's Toolkit for Education and Youth Work Practitioners in Scotland.

## Preparation

Prior to introducing activities to young people, you can learn more about Fearless and SkillZone by visiting our websites: [Fearless.org](https://fearless.org) and [skillzone.glosfire.gov.uk](https://skillzone.glosfire.gov.uk)

The activities should follow young people viewing and discussing the [Your voice, Your choice](#) video

Below are some 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?



# Learning objectives

By completing the activities within this lesson plan, young people will:

1. Know what the law around knife crime is.
2. Understand the difference between snitching and reporting.
3. Bust some knife crime myths.
4. Understand what it means to be an 'active bystander' and make safe, positive actions to help keep themselves and their friends safe.
5. Know how they can report knife carriers, and any other crime, 100% anonymously.



**Speaking Up**

# Breaking down the barriers to reporting crime

There can be many reasons why young people (and adults) don't report information about crime. These normally fall into the following categories:

Fear of repercussions

Distrust of police/authority figures, or they don't have a safe place/person to report this information to

They experience higher rates of crime so become desensitised to it

They are not sure if what they have seen constitutes a crime

Joint enterprise: concerns around if they share too much information they may be associated with the crime/incident

## Our findings

During the process of creating the **Your Voice, Your choice** video, the SkillZone team spoke to young people about their views on speaking up about knife crime. Young people said that they:

- were worried about being seen as a snitch or a grass.
- were fearful of the repercussions of speaking up about knife crime.
- might feel guilty for not reporting if they knew or suspected someone was carrying a knife, if they or someone else then got hurt.
- weren't sure if reporting would make a difference.

## 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.



## Snitching vs Reporting

For young people, reporting crime can be a difficult decision. One way you can assist is to help the young person to detach themselves from the information – it's not about them but about the information they have.

When someone reports something to keep others safe, whether to a trusted adult, the police or Fearless.org, they are being an active bystander.

It is important to change the narrative of crime reporting when talking to young people about passing on information they may have about a crime. They are not being a 'snitch'; they are helping make their community, friends and family safe.

### **They are creating a safer place for everyone.**

The word 'snitching' carries a lot of negativity. No young person wants to be called a snitch or to be known as a snitch. It's helpful to explore with young people the differences between 'snitching' and 'reporting'.

Reporting crime has positive outcomes and is done for positive reasons.

It's vital to remember that some young people may feel the decision to report is out of their control. They may be incredibly fearful of the consequence of reporting.

As professionals, we need to accept and acknowledge their experience and feelings. They may not feel able to make the same decisions and choices as their peers for a variety of reasons and past experiences.

For those reasons, and despite having trusted adults in their lives that they should be encouraged to go to when faced with crime, many young people feel that they can't speak up.

This is great opportunity to speak to the young person about Fearless.org and the opportunity to report what they know about crime 100% anonymously. They will not have to give any details about themselves, they will not have to speak to the police and they will not have to go to court.



# Lesson

What you'll need: the 'your voice, your choice' video and accompanying presentation.

# Activity 1: Speedy Warm Up



Duration	Description	Notes
3-5 mins	<p>Introduction and group agreement - slide 2</p> <p>Ask students to choose 'yes' or 'no' sides for the following statements:</p> <p>There are situations where I think speaking up about crime is ok. Yes or no?</p> <p>An adult speaking up and a young person speaking up have the same outcomes for the person reporting. Yes or no?</p> <p>I believe if more people spoke up about crime, our communities would be safer. Yes or no?</p>	<p>Introduce the topic – sharing learning objectives and group agreement.</p> <p>If the group of young people you're working with find it difficult to express their view in an open forum – an option to put hands up, eyes closed could be used.</p>

# Activity 2: Knife crime – myth vs reality



Duration	Description	Notes
10 mins	<p>Use slides 4-11 in the accompanying powerpoint presentation to explore young people's views on knife crime.</p> <p>Ask young people whether they think the statements shown on the screen are TRUE or FALSE.</p> <p>Use slides 12-14 in the accompanying powerpoint to outline what the law says about knife crime, discuss what the risks and consequences of carrying a knife are, and actions young people can take to help them stay safe.</p>	<p>Once young people have shared their views on whether the knife crime statements are TRUE or FALSE, open up further discussion (if time allows) and share the answers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Carrying a knife keeps you safer.</b> (Explain that this is FALSE. Studies have shown that carrying a knife increases your chance of being harmed. In many cases, people end up being injured by their own knife).</li><li><b>2. Most young people carry knives.</b> (Explain that this is FALSE. 99% of young people do not carry knives).</li><li><b>3. There are safe places on the body to stab someone.</b> (Explain that this is FALSE. Any stab wound can be fatal. Major arteries run through the whole body making it impossible to stab someone without risking serious or life-threatening injury).</li></ol>

# Activity 3: How to be an active bystander



Duration	Description	Notes
25 mins	<p>Use slide 16 in the accompanying powerpoint to explain the bystander effect.</p> <p>Use slide 17 in the accompanying powerpoint to explain what an 'active bystander' is.</p> <p>Use slide 18 in the accompanying powerpoint to explore the 5 D's – ways that we might intervene in a situation. ONLY when safe to do so:</p> <p>Direct Distract Delegate Document Delay</p> <p>Refer back to the video and ask young people to think about how they might use each of the 5 D's if their friend was experiencing some of the issues that the main character is. Split young people into 5 groups – each group is given one 'D' to explore and then feedback to the class.</p> <p>Use slide 19 to explore why young people may or may not speak up about crime. Explore what student's views about speaking up are and the difference between snitching and reporting. First, ask students to share all the reasons they can come up with as to why they would or wouldn't speak up (it is likely that not wanting to be seen as a snitch or a grass will come up) and then reveal the snitching v reporting table.</p>	<p>If time is limited, run through each of the 5 D's, giving examples of how each one could have been used at different points within the video.</p> <p>Emphasise to young people that snitching is something we do to get people into trouble and reporting is something we do to help keep people safe.</p>



# Activity 4: Introducing Fearless.org



## Part A

Duration	Description	Notes
5 mins	<p>Introducing Fearless.org - slide 20</p> <p>Reporting crime can seem difficult because of all of the barriers discussed in earlier activities - you might remind young people of some of these - but there's a charity that takes most of those barriers away and makes it easier for them.</p> <p>Play video: <a href="https://youtu.be/ssXIZ51f5nl">https://youtu.be/ssXIZ51f5nl</a></p> <p>Ask students if anyone can explain what anonymous means? If not, explain (see notes).</p> <p>Ask students if they know the difference between anonymous and confidential and if not, explain (see notes).</p>	<p>Confidential means that your identity is known but others are prevented from sharing it widely. For example – A GP. A doctor knows your name, address, age, medical history but they're not allowed to share that information to strangers. Anonymous means that you're unidentifiable, untraceable and therefore always unknown.</p> <p>Reiterate key points from the video.</p> <p>Fearless is 100% anonymous. Always. Nobody will ever know who you are. Not the charity or Police.</p> <p>When you contact Fearless to report information about crime, your IP address and contact details are untraceable.</p>

## Part B

Duration	Description	Notes
5 mins	<p>By projecting on to a screen, demonstrate how easy it is to use Fearless by going to Fearless.org and navigating to the reporting page by clicking the blue box in the top right hand corner 'Give information'.</p> <p>Look at the online form and highlight how quick it is to complete.</p>	<p>Remind students that Fearless operates across the UK therefore it's important to put the city/town that the crime is happening in, not just the street name etc.</p> <p>Once they click send, that's it, they're done. Nobody will ever know the information came from them.</p> <p>Important - tell students that they can report information about any crime, but Fearless.org should not be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• By victims – Fearless is 100% anonymous and therefore is unable to take information about a crime from the victim of that crime. This is to protect the charity's promise of anonymity and the person reporting.</li><li>• In an emergency – Fearless is not an emergency service. In this situation, the young person should dial 999.</li></ul>

# Activity 5: Conclusion

Duration	Description	Notes
5 mins	<p>Conclude Fearless.org is one option you have to report crime.</p> <p>Ask the young people who else they might choose to speak to?</p>	<p>Return to your learning intentions and success criteria.</p> <p>Reiterate that Fearless is part of independent charity Crimestoppers - not the Police.</p> <p>Answers could include you can also speak to family members, teachers, youth workers and the Police directly.</p>
	<p>Optional Extension Activity</p> <p>Explore how your school can help promote Fearless across their community.</p>	<p>Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents Evenings</li> <li>Awareness days</li> <li>Fundraising (Crimestoppers is a charity!)</li> <li>Get creative – young people to create their own posters to promote Fearless in school</li> </ul>

# Further steps you can take

For such a big topic which provokes strong opinions, it's important to revisit and embed Fearless within your school community.

These are just some of the other ways you can do this:

1

Order FREE posters to display in your setting at Fearless.org

2

Add the Fearless.org homepage as an icon to all computer desktops / tablets

3

Remind young people of our service when talking about all crime topics

4

Follow Fearless and SkillZone us on social media (links below)

5

Book a visit to SkillZone by visiting: [skillzone.glosfire.gov.uk](http://skillzone.glosfire.gov.uk)

## **Fearless:**

Instagram: @fearlessuk

TikTok: @fearless.org

X: @FearlessORG

## **SkillZone:**

Facebook: @SkillZone

X: @GlosSkillZONE





Crimestoppers Trust is a charity  
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