

Knife Crime

Police report a 49% increase in recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in the last 10 years (**from March 2016 – March 2026**)

Crimes recorded included knives, screwdrivers, scissors etc

If you are impacted by anything in this session, please speak to your Trainer.



More than 1,700 knives have been taken off the streets in York and North Yorkshire since the rollout of bins to dispose of blades.

BUT

Figures revealed there was a **26% increase** in knife crime incidents in North Yorkshire up to May 2026 against a 10% decrease nationally.

However

North Yorkshire is one of the safest areas in the country with one of the lowest incidents of this type of crime, **but you can see it is on the increase.**

Knife Bins



- Boroughbridge, Morrisons Car Park
- Colburn, Truck Stop
- Harrogate, Dragon Road Car Park
- Knaresborough, Fisher Street Car Park
- Malton, Wentworth Street Car Park
- Northallerton, Applegarth Car Park
- Pickering, Vivis Lane Car Park
- Richmond, Nuns Close Car Park
- Ripon, St Marygate Car Park
- Scarborough, Friar's Way Car Park
- Scarborough, William Street Coach and Car Park
- Selby, Back Micklegate Car Park
- Settle, Ashfield Car Park
- Skipton, High Street Car Park
- Stokesley, Showground Car Park
- Tadcaster, The “Central” Car Park
- Thirsk, Millgate Car Park
- Whitby, West Cliff Car Park
- York, East Parade Car Park
- York, Kingsway North (Clifton)
- York, Morrisons Car Park, Acomb

Carrying...

- If the knife or sharp implement is not banned, some examples of valid reasons to carry include
 - using it for your work
 - for religious reasons - the kirpan that some Sikhs carry
 - as part of any national costume
 - Scots wear a dirk
- Top reasons cited by perpetrators of crime, are:
 - for protection or self defence, in case they were ever attacked and needed to protect themselves
 - because they are cheap and easy to get hold of
 - being brought up in a household where carrying a knife is 'normal'

Learner activity



Read the news stories on the handout give to you by your Trainer.



What are your thoughts after reading these?



What can you do to protect yourself?



What can you do to reduce knife crime?

Statistics show that if you carry a knife then you are **more likely** to end up being hurt. You can be seen as threatening and end up being hurt by your own weapon.

You might think you'll be respected or even feared for carrying a weapon. All it really does is put you, your friends and family in danger.

It is illegal and it is banned

It's illegal to carry most knives in public.

- With any knife, it's also illegal to:
 - use it in a threatening way
 - have it on you while at school or **further education**

- It's illegal to possess banned knives. These include
 - zombie knives
 - flick knives
 - push daggers
 - throwing stars (Shuriken).
- It doesn't matter if you keep them at home or in a private place. **Owning, keeping or carrying them is illegal.**
- It's also illegal to:
 - possess a banned knife for use by someone else
 - buy or sell a banned knife

Understand the consequences

- Carrying a knife increases your risk of being injured
- It increases the risk of the people around you being injured
- Police are allowed to stop and search someone if they believe a weapon is being carried.
- Having a criminal record could stop your entry into college or university, getting a job and place restrictions on you travelling to some countries.
- You could go to jail for up to four years if you're found in possession of a knife, even if you're carrying it for someone else.
- In the worst-case scenario, you could get life imprisonment for murder.
- **While walking away is often the hardest thing to do, it is the safest and won't get you into trouble with the police.**

Things **you** can
do to reduce
knife crime.
Some may
seem simple,
but it does
work.

Don't buy a banned knife

Never carry a knife

If a friend shows you that they are
carrying a knife (for a non-work reason)

- tell them not to carry it
- if they refuse to leave it at home,
do not accompany them anywhere
because you can be drawn into a
criminal act just by being with
them or be hurt



It is easy to be drawn into an argument when you are out alone or with a group of friends, especially if it is a night out.

People can try argue with you and draw you into a fight, perhaps because

- they are drunk or high
- they don't like the way you dress
- they mistake you for someone else

It is hard but walk away. You do not know if they have a knife.

Your life is worth more than ever winning an argument.

Act fast but be safe

- If you are ever with someone who is bleeding heavily, you need to act **fast**.
- Ensure an ambulance is called.
- Apply pressure to the wound. Use anything, a hand, a T-shirt, a scarf, a towel – anything that could be put over the wound. but **pressure is key**. This will stop or slow the flow of blood and help the blood clot and stop the bleeding.
- **If a knife or sharp object is in the wound do not remove it.** It is helping stem the blood flow.
- Keep pressure on until help arrives.



Speak up

If you are concerned about someone carrying a knife, step up and report it

- **Call 999, if it is urgent**
- **Call 101, if it is non-urgent**

You might save someone's life, including your own.

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