Worried your child has a knife or weapon?

1 What should I do right now?

If anyone is in immediate danger

Call **999** now if:

- Your child has left or is about to leave with a weapon.
- Someone is being threatened or you think a weapon may be used.
- Someone is unsafe or a crime is happening.

If no one is in immediate danger

Call **101** if:

- If you've found a weapon or think your child has one, report your concern to the police.
- Ask what you should do next and how to hand in the weapon safely.

Do not try to take or move a weapon if it could put anyone in danger. Follow police advice

2 Who else should I tell?

If your child receives support

Tell their social worker, youth justice worker, teacher or mental health worker about your concerns as soon as possible.

If your child does not receive support

Contact children's social care or Early Help through your local council as soon as you can. Your GP or child's school can also help you access support.

If your child gets another weapon

Tell professionals supporting your child promptly, even if you've raised concerns before. Always report a new weapon to the police too.

Ask for help as soon as you can

Early support can help keep your child and other people safe

Access the full guidance here

What happens next?

3 What could happen after I report a weapon?

Police involvement
If your child is found carrying a knife or weapon, they may be arrested and become involved with youth justice services.

Support for your child
Your child may receive support from youth justice workers to understand what happened and reduce the risk of further harm.

Education and employment
A weapons offence could affect your child's education or future employment, depending on the circumstances and outcome.

Children's social care
Children's social care may become involved if there are concerns about your child's safety.

4 How can I talk to my child?

Stay calm
If it's safe to talk, tell your child you're worried about their and others safety. Avoid shouting, threats or blame.

Listen
Listen to what your child has to say and give them a chance to explain how they're feeling.

Understand why
Ask why your child has the weapon, what they intend to do with it, and whether they feel afraid, threatened or pressured by others.

Explain next steps
Tell your child you'll ask for help to keep them and others safe.

5 Where can I get further help and support?

If you or your child feel unsafe
Tell the police or children's social care if you're frightened of your child, and someone is threatening or forcing them to carry a weapon.

If your child orders a weapon
Tell the police and professionals supporting your child. Keep order details or messages.

Further advice and support
The Ben Kinsella Trust, NSPCC and Childline offer information and support for parents, carers and young people.

Access the full guidance here →