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Can I be stopped and searched?

Yes. A police officer can stop and search any person, or vehicle, where they have reasonable grounds to suspect they will find prohibited items, including offensive weapons such as knives.

What are the consequences?

If you are found in possession of a knife (a pointed/bladed article), you could face a range of punishments, including up to 4 years in prison.

I've heard about "Joint Enterprise" in relation to knife crime. What is it?

Encouraging or assisting someone to commit a crime could see someone convicted of that crime. This is known as Joint Enterprise. A video of a joint enterprise scenario for primary education use is available [to view here](#) and could be used a discussion point with students.

What should I do if I think or know someone is carrying a knife?

- If you believe there is an immediate threat to life or if you have just seen someone carrying a knife, dial 999 and report it to the police
- Advise your students that, if they suspect anyone of carrying a knife or an offensive weapon, they should tell a trusted adult. This could be a police officer, teacher, parent or guardian. When it isn't an emergency, police can be contacted on 101 or a [report can be made online](#).
- You may also submit intelligence to Northumbria Police by using the Partnership Intelligence Form which is available within school.

If it isn't an emergency and you don't want to contact the police:

- Crimestoppers - This is an anonymous reporting service for anyone to give information relating to a crime. There is a phone helpline and an online reporting form. They do not ask for your personal information, and phone numbers/ IP addresses cannot be tracked.

The YOLO programme is one of the ways in which we're helping young people aged 10-16 years who are at risk of being drawn into knife or violent crime. The young person doesn't have to be known to police already, but they cannot be considered if they have been charged to court. YOLO works with the Foundation of Light and the Newcastle United Foundation to pair young people with a mentor. Issues with anger and behaviour are addressed, guiding them to build healthy relationships, and increase their self-confidence. Participants are also given access to activities such as sport, music, art, social action projects, first aid workshops, knife crime workshops and volunteering opportunities.

When you identify a young person for inclusion in the programme, please contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team's (NPT) SPOC and provide:

- the young person's name, date of birth, and address
- the brief circumstances that you believe make the young person suitable for YOLO
- your contact details
- If you need help contacting your NPT SPOC [please email us](#)

For further information, please visit the following websites:

- [Why carry a weapon? - The Mix](#)
- [Knife crime | Crimestoppers](#)
- [Gun and knife crime | Childline](#)