

Dear Parent/Carer,

We at Sandwell Police, together with the schools, are constantly working to ensure Sandwell is a safe place for you and your families to live and work. With that in mind, we would like to inform you of a change in legislation that may affect some of you.

The new legislation came into force in July of this year that makes all weapons banned in **public** by the Criminal Justice Act 1988, including zombie knives, shuriken or death stars and knuckledusters, **will now also be banned in private**, meaning people can no longer keep them even at home.

Anyone subsequently found in possession of them could face up to 10 years' imprisonment. I have attached the following YouTube link and also a useful link that explains which weapons we are referring to.

[YouTube](#)
[NBCC Guidance](#)

We are mindful that up until this change in legislation some of these items were legally allowed to be kept in private and there may be such items in your homes. It may well be the case that you're not even aware of the change in legislation.

With this in mind, Sandwell Police will be running an amnesty for the whole of October 2021.

That means that any of the above weapons can be surrendered without repercussion. We will be working closely with our schools to make this happen safely.

If you have any of these weapons in your home and want to remove them then please inform your child's school. The school will then inform us and we will arrange to come and collect the weapon from your home address safely. We will not ask any questions about the weapon but will dispose of it safely.

However, if you wish to talk to us about weapons or violence involving young people then we will be happy to talk to you. Officers can attend in plain clothes to avoid any concerns you may have about public perception. Under **no** circumstances do we want anyone to bring any weapons out of the house to school.

This will provide every opportunity for Sandwell young people to dispose of any weapons they may have in a safe manner and avoid any future prosecutions.

If you are not happy to inform your child's school then you can put details on the Council's [Just Youth website](#). Youth workers will then pass details to us safely so that we can arrange collection.

The purpose of this amnesty is to ensure that you are all aware of the new legislation and have the opportunity to surrender illegal weapons that may have been purchased and kept legally.

I want to reassure you that knife crime and weapon possession is still very rare in Sandwell and we hope that this amnesty will help to continue to make Sandwell a very safe place to live and work for all of our young people and families.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me at:
Sandwell_Partnerships@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Thank you,

Kym Jones

PS Kym Jones 3616
Sandwell Police Partnerships Team