

Date: 29th September 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/015525/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/015525/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/09/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

*****REFINED REQUEST*****

in this case I am happy for you to provide the information based on the number of suspects - rather than pupils. Please can this revision be actioned.

CLARIFICATION

Thanks for your email. Yes I am happy for you to proceed using the dates suggested and using the search using the codes outlined below.

***** ORIGINAL REQUEST *****

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide the following information broken down by the school academic years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

1 - The number of pupils aged 18 and under recorded as being in possession of an offensive weapon on a school premises (primary and secondary schools only) during the academic years outlined above.

2 – The age of the youngest pupil recorded as being in possession of an offensive weapon on school premises (primary and secondary schools only) for the academic years outlined above (this does not need to be broken down by academic year) and the type of weapon involved.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- This data contains crimes with a created date between 01/09/2022 and 31/08/2025, where the HO 5 digit codes are 008/27 (Having an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises) or 008/28 (Possession of other offensive weapon on school/further education premises) and the offender is aged 18 year or under, excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.
- Schools may have policies that allow crimes to be resolved without being reported to the police. This means that this data may not reflect the total number of crimes that occurred in schools.
- Age has been calculated using the crime committed date and the person date of birth. Please note:
 - The crime committed date may be different to other dates e.g. reported or created.
 - The crime committed date may be recorded as a range where the crime occurred over a period of time or where it is not possible to say exactly when it occurred. In these cases, the first date in the range has been used for the calculation.
 - Age cannot be calculated where the crime committed date and/or person date of birth has not been recorded.
 - The calculated age may be incorrect where the person date of birth has been recorded incorrectly.
- Suspects have been included even if no action has been taken against them e.g. eliminated, insufficient evidence, wanted.

Question 1

School Year	Number of crimes
Sep 22 - Aug 23	104
Sep 23 - Aug 24	87
Sep 24 - Aug 25	76

Question 2

The age of the youngest offender was 5 and the weapon involved was a Stanley Knife.