



School Policies

Policy title	Weapons Policy				
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Written on	June 2011	Reviewed on	Oct 2018	Next review due	Sept 2019
SLT link	M Patel		Governor link	PDBW subcommittee	

Copies in	Policies folder ✓	Handbook ✓	Student planner	Website
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This policy has been written in conjunction with the college’s Equality and Diversity policy (Equality Act 2010)

And

Behaviour and discipline in schools Advise for Head teachers and schools staff DfE January 2016

It is illegal to carry knives or other offensive weapons on and around college premises, but this does not always deter a small minority of young people. Weapon carrying in college is thankfully rare overall.

The Governing Body at this college recognises that the presence of weapons in the school would not only create unacceptable risks of bullying, injury or death, but also create a climate that undermines the educational purposes of the college. Accordingly, it is the college’s policy to forbid the possession, custody and use of weapons by unauthorised persons in, on or around college premises and school activities. No student or other person shall bring a weapon into the college buildings, nor carry or keep any weapon within the perimeter of the college site or while attending or participating in any college activity. This includes during transportation to or from college activities. These rules apply at all times except where an object that could be described as a weapon is issued to a student by the college (e.g. scissors, craft knife, cutting knife), or required by the college for the purpose of teaching a curriculum activity. Misuse of such items will be dealt with as though possession was not authorised.

DEALING WITH WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

DCSF has produced guidance for schools on the powers available to schools to search pupils and the Local Authority has put in place a policy on the use of reasonable force to control or restrain pupils. This school will follow this guidance. In summary, so far as weapons are concerned:-

Generally, when it is suspected that a student or other person is in possession or custody of a weapon the college/member of staff will:

- ensure that the situation is brought to the immediate attention of and then dealt with by a senior member of staff



- call the police to deal with any incident believed to involve a weapon, indicating how serious the situation appears to be; and where thought necessary request an urgent operational response
- in exceptional circumstances, take immediate action to safeguard a situation by:
 - de-escalating the situation
 - diverting the student or other person to a place of safety where no other students are present
 - removing other students from the vicinity.

For information, the police can, with reasonable suspicion, enter a school to search without a Headteacher's consent, conduct a personal search without a pupil's consent, and conduct an unannounced search of more than one pupil in a school, using powers under the Offensive Weapons Act 1996.

Weapons: For purposes of this policy, a "weapon" is any firearm (of any description including starting pistols, air guns and any type of replica or toy gun), knife (including all variations of bladed object including pocket knives, craft knives, scissors, etc.) explosive (including firework), aerosol spray, lighter, matches, laser pen or other object, even if manufactured for a non-violent purpose, that has a potentially violent use, if, in the circumstances, the purpose of keeping or carrying the object is for use, or threat of use, as a weapon.

Enforcement: This policy will be enforced by the Principal. Disciplinary actions pursuant to this policy will follow.

Penalties

Any student found to be in breach of this policy shall be subject to action under the schools disciplinary policy. This could mean fixed term or permanent exclusion.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the [college search policy](#) and Behaviour and Discipline in school (Advise for head teachers and school staff) DFE January 2016

Confiscation of inappropriate items

What the law allows:

35. There are two sets of legal provisions which enable school staff to confiscate items from pupils: 1) The **general power to discipline** (as described in the bullets under the heading "Discipline in Schools – Teachers' Powers" on pages 3 and 4) enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a punishment, so long as it is reasonable in the circumstances. The law protects them from liability for damage to, or loss of, any confiscated items provided they have



acted lawfully⁸. The legislation does not describe what must be done with the confiscated item and the school behaviour policy may set this out; and

2) **Power to search without consent** for “prohibited items”⁹ including:

- **knives and weapons**

- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence , cause personal injury or damage to property; and
- any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

The legislation sets out what must be done with prohibited items found as a result of a search.

36. Weapons and knives and extreme or child pornography must always be handed over to the police, otherwise it is for the teacher to decide if and when to return a confiscated item.