



Behaviour Policy (SISW 5) Appendix H – Offensive Weapons Procedure

Statement

It is a criminal offence for any student to bring to school, or carry around school, an offensive weapon. It is also a criminal offence to threaten anyone with an offensive weapon. The school has a statutory duty to inform the police in the event of any incidents involving the use of offensive weapons.

Definition of Offensive Weapons

The legal definition of an offensive weapon is:

“any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person or intended by the person having it with him/her for such use by him/her or by some other person. (This definition includes a disguised knife)”.

This definition also covers situations where everyday normal items found in school such as furniture, sports equipment, tools etc are used to cause physical harm can be included under the term offensive weapon.

Procedural Guidelines and the role of the Head Teacher and Governing Body

- The Head Teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, and appropriate outside agencies. The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff are made aware of the policy.
- Staff may search students' and their belongings for knives or offensive weapons with or without their consent in accordance with the current DfE national confiscation guidelines on searching, screening and confiscation in schools – available on request from the school.
- Students can be refused entry to the school (or participation in a visit) if they refuse to be screened.
- In instances involving possession or use of an offensive weapon, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Head Teacher or his/her representative.
- The school has a statutory duty to inform the police if a serious criminal offence has taken place on school premises. The use, attempted use, or intended use of an offensive weapon will automatically involve the police being contacted.
- Any student who causes physical harm, or threatens others, with an offensive weapon is likely to be permanently excluded.
- The school will consider each incident of carrying an offensive weapon individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school's decision may involve fixed term or permanent exclusion.