



WEAPONS POLICY

Status	Approved	Approval	Full Governing Body.
Maintenance	Full Governing Body	Role(s) responsible	Head Teacher
Date Effective	March 2018	Date of last review	December 2021
Date of next review	December 2023	Date withdrawn	Not withdrawn

COLTON HILLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Rationale

Any object used with malicious intent could be an offensive weapon. This document also seeks to make the professional responsibilities clear to all staff to ensure that statutory and other duties are met in accordance with Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) requirements and procedures. This document has been written following training and guidance for nominated staff from the police on a school's responsibility and powers of search with regards to offensive weapons.

The Violent Crime Reduction Act makes it an arrestable offence to carry an offensive weapon in public without lawful authority, or to carry in public any article with a blade or which is sharply pointed without good cause. It is an offence to carry an offensive weapon or knife on the school premises.

The police have the power to enter school premises to search for an offensive weapon.

Recent guidance from the Home Office has determined that possession of knives and other offensive weapons within a school should not be dealt with under the Schools Protocol and National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) as has previously been the case.

In all cases where possession of a knife or other offensive weapon occurs within school, a crime will be recorded by police and investigation carried out. The offence should no longer be dealt with purely under school rules, policies and procedures

Schools should report all cases where pupils are found to have knives in their possession to the Police, ideally a Safer Schools Officer if available, to ensure that any offences are investigated fully.

Staff

If a member of staff suspects or is informed by other students that a weapon is somewhere in school or at an offsite educational visit they must report their suspicion immediately to the Designated Person for Child Protection or another member of the Leadership Group.

Searching for weapons

The Head and any authorised member of the school staff who has reasonable grounds for believing that a student may have with them, or in their possession, a knife or offensive weapon has the right to search that student.

On occasions when a search is deemed necessary it must be conducted by an adult of the same sex as the student and in the presence of another adult of the same sex.



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The student will not be required to remove any clothing other than outer clothing and if the student's possessions are searched this must also be done in the presence of another adult. The search may be carried out on the school premises or any other place where the student is under the supervision of a member of staff. A weapon detection device may be used by a designated member of staff at this stage.

The person carrying out the search is able to use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances for exercising that power.

Police Involvement

In line with Home Office regulations, the Head Teacher and any other authorised member of staff will involve the police in this process. If a weapon is found on the student the Head Teacher or in his absence a Deputy Head Teacher will inform the police.

Confiscation

The school will confiscate the weapon. This will handed to the Police.

Record Keeping

Detailed, up-to-date, written records of all incidents, where a search of any kind has been used, will be kept by the Designated Child Protection person.

The record should include:

- Name of member of staff
- Date and time of the incident
- Name(s) of students involved
- Names of witnesses
- Location of the incident
- Description of the incident
- Steps taken to calm the situation if force was considered necessary
- Reason why the use of force was necessary
- Nature of the force used
- The student's response
- The outcome
- Details of any injury suffered or damage to property
- Details of weapon(s) found

Parents will always be informed if their child is searched for weapons within 24 hours. At this stage they will be made aware of the outcome of the search.

School Sanctions

Carrying a weapon is a serious breach of the school's Behaviour Policy and will normally result in permanent exclusion.

In the exceptional circumstances that the student returns to school, a full risk assessment will be completed and maintained while the student remains at Colton Hills.