

Offensive Weapons Policy

Adopted:	Nov 2023
Reviewed and approved:	XXXXX 2023
Date of next review:	XXXXX 2024

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Consequences of bringing offensive weapons into school	2
3. Procedure for when a pupil is suspected of having an offensive weapon on them	3
4. Procedure for when a pupil is known to be in possession of an offensive weapon.....	4
5. Procedure for when a pupil is threatening others an offensive weapon.....	5

1. Introduction

Offences involving the use of weapons are an area that the government is monitoring closely. London is the highest-volume weapons related crime locality in England. The Southover Partnership School sites are located in London boroughs of Brent, Barnet and Enfield. The Southover Partnership understand that our pupils are highly vulnerable to both being victims, or possibly perpetrators of weapons related crime, due to their specific needs, backgrounds and contexts. Offensive weapons are defined as any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him or by some other person, including but not limited to: Knives, blades and corrosive substances. Therefore, as an organisation, we:

- Do our best to reduce risks.
- Scan our students with designated staff if their risk assessment indicates that there's a possibility for them to be exposed to offensive weapons.
- Conduct searches of our school boundary if we believe or hear that an offensive weapon has been concealed in or around the site's premises.
 - Searches take place with 2 staff members with the same gender i.e. Male members search male students etc., with a portable metal detector.
- Explicitly teach students to keep themselves safe as a part of our PSHE curriculum, which includes the consequences of anti-social behaviour, being involved in gang related activities, including weapons related crime.

2. Consequences of bringing offensive weapons into school

- Bringing weapons into school, especially with intention to use it, is an exceptionally rare event. The sanction applied is likely to be immediate permanent exclusion.
- Where safe to do, any dangerous item such as offensive weapons will be confiscated immediately, and stored securely until collected by the police. The Southover Partnership will inform the family and all relevant professionals, including the police, as soon as possible.
- The Executive Headteacher (or members of the Senior Leadership Team in absence of the Executive Headteacher) will log the incident on our school portal and inform the Board of Trustees.

3. Procedure for when a pupil is suspected of having an offensive weapon on them

Considerations including:

- Who is suspected?
- Are they generally predictable, unpredictable, violent or approachable?
- Do they appear calm, angry, nervous or obtunded?
- Are we at school or in public?
- What support is available?
- Who may be at risk?
- What is the risk of challenging the individual or would it exacerbate the situation?

Communication:

- Immediately share suspicion with an SLT member or another staff member (Where possible, SLT members or trusted adults i.e. Therapists, will support the situation).

Possible actions:

- Attempt to isolate the individual to reduce risk by taking the individual to another location or removing peers from the individual.
- After dynamically risk assessed the situation, and concluding that it is safe to approach the individual to ask them if they are concealing an offensive weapon – do so.
- Knowledge and understanding of the individual are crucial, and if the individual is known to be violent or unpredictable, you need to consider isolating yourself, then contact the police. Where possible a senior leader will make this decision. However, staff are empowered to contact the police if necessary.

4. Procedure for when a pupil is known to be in possession of an offensive weapon

Considerations including:

- Who is at risk?
- Who is at immediate risk?
- Do they know that you know?
- Will revealing that you know increase or reduce the risk?
- Are we at school or in public?
- What support can you get?

Communication:

- Immediately share this information with an SLT member or another staff member.
- Call the police or as the SLT or the other staff member to call.

Possible actions:

- Attempt to isolate the individual to reduce risk by taking the individual to another location or removing peers from the individual.
- If the individual is calm and unaware of the fact that you know, it could be better to carry on to prevent agitation.
- After dynamically risk assessed the situation, and concluding that it is safe to approach the individual, ask them to hand in their offensive weapon.
 - **Knowledge and understanding of the individual are crucial**
- Should the individual hand in the offensive weapon, the police will need to be notified immediately after the incident, and the weapon must be kept in the safe.

5. Procedure for when a pupil is threatening others an offensive weapon

Considerations including:

- Who is at immediate risk?
- Can you diffuse the situation verbally or is it safe to physically intervene?
- What kind of weapon?
- Can you or those at risk escape the immediate vicinity of the threat?
- Are we at school or in public?
- What immediate support can you get?

Communication:

- Immediately notify the policy.
- All at risk to be notified.

Possible actions:

- Attempt to remove those at greatest risk from the situation.
- Attempt to diffuse but only when safe to do so - **Safety of everyone is of paramount importance.**
- Attempt to physically intervene but only when safe to do so, and as a last resort - **Knowledge and understanding of the individual is crucial**
- The police will need to be notified immediately after the incident if the situation is diffused.