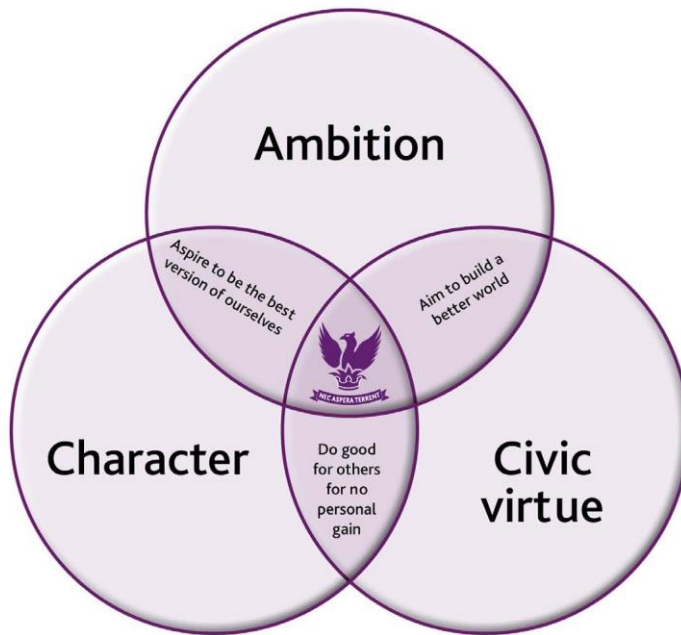


WEAPONS POLICY

Ratified by CSWP on 9 November 2023





DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

WEAPONS POLICY

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Prevention of Crime Act 1953
- Offensive Weapons Act 1996
- Offensive Weapons Act 2019
- Criminal Justice Act 1988
- Education Act 1996
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
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This policy has due regard to all relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2018) 'Searching, screening and confiscation'
- Home Office (2012) 'Knives and offensives information'
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy
- Use of Reasonable Force Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Exclusion Policy

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

For the purposes of this policy a weapon will be defined as any article which might be used to harm, or to threaten to harm, another person for which there is no legitimate purpose in the school context.

Section 45 of the Offensive Weapons Act describes the offence of possession as an article with a blade or which is sharply pointed or an offensive weapon on school premises.

Possession of an offensive weapon in a school or public place is a crime.

To maintain a safe learning environment at all times, the school will

- act decisively to prevent weapons being present at any place where they might harm students or others;
- impose serious sanctions in respect of any misconduct involving weapons, with a presumption of exclusion;
- educate students against the carrying of weapons;
- encourage students to disclose the presence of weapons, or the making of threats involving weapons;

- share information with the police and others to these ends.

MISCONDUCT AND SANCTIONS RELATED TO WEAPONS

What is misconduct related to weapons?

The school takes such misconduct extremely seriously. Whilst the sanction for such misconduct will depend on all the circumstances, the following needs to be understood.

Misconduct is not limited to bringing a weapon onto school premises.

Misconduct includes

- use, possession or supply of a weapon
- any activity which facilitates or encourages use, possession or supply of a weapon
- any activity which interferes, or seeks to interfere, with the prevention or investigation of such activity

Examples of facilitating or encouraging

- providing information about where to obtain weapons or how to use them
- actions which normalise or celebrate the use of weapons, such as the use of replicas

Examples of interfering with prevention or investigation

Hiding prohibited material, failing to co-operate with an investigation, warning others that an investigation is underway. These are examples only.

In line with recent legislation the staff at the School reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying weapons.

Similarly, students can expect staff to use their legal power to use reasonable force if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community. Searches will be carried out with express permission from the Head, by Heads of Year or members of the Senior Leadership Team and Parents/Carers will always be informed when this has happened. Students will be asked permission to be searched, though this is not required by law. If a student refuses to be searched, the school may refer the matter to the police.

Incidents involving weapons include

- suspicion of possession of a weapon
- possession of a weapon
- threatened use of a weapon at school
- threatened use of a weapon outside school
- use of a weapon at school
- use of a weapon outside school

All incidents involving weapons should be referred immediately to the Head through the Key Stage Deputy Head. The following actions may apply

- Contact with the police
- Confiscation of the weapon
- Contact with parents

Weapons on school premises

If weapons are discovered on school premises staff the Head and DSL will be informed and should consider contacting the police immediately.

If it is considered safe for staff to confiscate the weapons they should be seized at the time of discovery following the search and seizure procedures set out in LEA 7 Police Guidance Part 2. Any search should be conducted by two or more members of staff in a place where other students are not present.

Where the person suspected of carrying the weapon is not a registered student at the school the police should be called immediately. Police officers should undertake any search deemed necessary.

In addition to the above, the school also considers the following items to be prohibited:

- Fireworks
- Laser pens

- Paintball guns
- Tasers
- Lighters and matches
- Bladed items

Weapons outside school premises

If an incident involving weapons takes place outside school premises the police should be called immediately. Police officers should undertake any search deemed necessary.

Sanctions

All students found in possession of a weapon place themselves at risk of permanent exclusion and will receive a minimum of a fixed term suspension.

If the Head is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that a student has brought a weapon onto the school site with the intent to threaten or harm another person, they will be excluded permanently.