



# DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

## WEAPONS POLICY

# **WEAPONS**

## **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.

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 or 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 to be physically restrained if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community. Searches will be carried out by Heads of Year or members of the Senior Leadership Team and Parents/Carers will always be informed when this has happened.

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 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.

### **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 exclusion.

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.