



Rednock School

Quality, Partnership, Success

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Proposed Policy:	Offensive Weapons	Responsibility Of:	Head Teacher
Date of Ratification:	December 2016	Date of Review:	December 2017

Policy on Offensive Weapons

It is a criminal offence to carry an offensive weapon or knife onto school premises. Offensive weapons are defined as any article made or adapted for causing injury to the person, or intended by the person having it with them for such use by them on some other person.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to assure a safe school environment for students, staff and the public.

Statement

No student or person including adults and visitors shall possess, use or distribute an offensive weapon or knife when in a school location.

Definition of an Offensive Weapon or Knife

Offensive weapons are defined in the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 as “any article made or adapted for causing injury to the person; or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him”. Sections 139 and 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 excludes a folding pocket knife.

Rednock School considers a folding pocket knife to be an offensive weapon and, as such, are covered by this policy and are banned from our school site.

- A weapon means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury.
- No person shall possess, use or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons; this includes weapons which are broken or non-functional, look-alike guns, toy guns and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.
- No person shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e. belts, scissors, pencils, etc) to inflict bodily harm and / or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

Statutory Defences for Carrying an Offensive Weapon

Police Officers and military personnel are exempt from this policy if a weapon is required for furtherance of their professional duties.

Staff Involvement when a weapon is suspected

The Head Teacher or their representative when deemed necessary will make the decision as to whether the police should be called to deal with any incident believed to involve a weapon. There may be exceptional circumstances where staff may decide to take action before the police arrive. Staff should not confront a student or person suspected of possessing a weapon in the presence of other students if this can be avoided. Preferably two members of staff should divert the student or person to a place where no other students are present.

If a student is suspected of possession of a weapon, the member of staff involved must immediately inform a member of the Senior Leadership Team and the school's Search Policy must be adhered to.

Where the person suspected of carrying a weapon is not a registered student at the school or where an incident takes place outside the school premises, any search should always be undertaken by the police.

Weapons or Knives confiscated by the School

If a member of staff takes possession of a knife or other weapon, whether through a search or by other means, the following procedures must be followed:

The member of staff in possession of a weapon in such circumstances should secure it immediately and either:

- Arrange without delay to surrender it to the police;
- **Where satisfied that it is reasonable to do so, arrange for it to be taken away from the school premises by a parent / carer of the student from who it was taken (this must be following a decision by the Head Teacher or their representative);**
- Some weapons are per se offensive (e.g. flick knives, knuckle dusters); in no circumstances should these be returned and the police must be informed;
- In cases where weapons are returned, a record will be made by the school, whether found as a result of a search or not.

Consequence

Any student found in possession or distributing an offensive weapon or knife while in a school location is liable to immediate permanent exclusion.