



# YOUNG WOMEN'S HUB

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Educate. Nurture. Inspire.

## Weapons policy

**March 2021**

Young Women's Hub  
Weapons policy  
Updated March 2021  
To be reviewed March 2022

## Introduction

There are no circumstances where a student should bring a weapon into school. It is imperative that all students are made aware of the seriousness and consequences of such an event.

## Aims

The school intends that every student should feel safe at school. Therefore, the need to educate students about the dangers of carrying weapons is important and is included in our PSHE programs. Some direct and specific work is undertaken with students thought to be at particular risk.

## Strategies

If a student is discovered to have brought a weapon into school the police will be informed and the consequences for that student will be discussed by the head of school, school behavior coordinator and the chair.

This discussion will focus on the following issues:

- How the weapon was found, discovered or reported
- The nature of the weapon
- The location and storage of the weapon on school site
- Knowledge of third parties as to the weapon being in school
- What the perceived purpose was of having the weapon in school
- Preceding behavior and attitude of the student whilst attending Young Women's Hub
- It is usual for a fixed term exclusion to be recommended, unless it is judged that there are very exceptional circumstances to be considered.

Following this discussion, the Head of School will:

- Inform the parent/carer of the decision:
- Organise a disciplinary meeting to include the student, the school, the family or carers, police liaison officer and any other agency involved with the student (e.g. YOT/social worker.)

Outcomes from this meeting may include:

- Fixed term exclusion
- Subject to circumstances

Weapons include: - guns, pellet guns, BB guns, air guns, replica guns, knives, nunchucks, death stars and other martial arts objects; screwdrivers, hammers, chisels, bradles and any tool that could be used offensively; razors, razor blades, aerosols, chains, scissors, etc.

This list is not exhaustive, but it should be noted that weapons also describe 'home made' implements manufactured to injure, threaten or intimidate.

If an item such as a pair of scissors is picked up in school and used or threatened to be used as a weapon, then any sanction referred to in the behaviour management policy may be recommended.

If a student hands in a weapon to a member of staff before they have been challenged about it being in their possession the outcome of this incident will be negotiated with the governors and head of school.

If a staff member suspects that a student is carrying a weapon, they should report it immediately to the head of school. Where possible, try to keep other students in a separate area. Staff should not attempt to approach the student and deal with the situation by themselves.

Members of staff can use reasonable force to protect themselves against a weapon or when retrieving a weapon from an individual or group. Do not attempt to do this if it puts you in danger.

In the circumstances of a student being unwilling to hand over a weapon to a member of staff the police will be called using 999.

Wherever possible, if it is deemed safe to do so, staff should wait until the police arrive, rather than place themselves at risk.

**To avoid risk of school implements being taken and used as weapons staff must all be aware of the school's protocols for the use of sharp or potentially dangerous implements.**

All staff are responsible for the handing out, and the return of school equipment, such as scissors, scalpels, kitchen knives, tools etc. at the start and end of their lesson.

Kitchen knives used for cooking must be accounted for at the end of every food tech session and kept in a locked cupboard in the kitchen and brought out for the session every time.

Students should never be left unattended in a classroom with sharp implements. If you suspect a student has taken a sharp implement from your room, you must report it immediately – even if it turns out to be a false alarm.

Do be overcautious. Report any suspicions immediately.

**Signed - Head of School**

*P. Woll*

**Signed - Chair**

*Gina Deane*

