



The Nar Valley Federation of Church Academies

Weapons and Knives Policy

Policy Type:	Trust Core Policy
Approved By:	DNEAT Board of Trustees
Approval Date:	22/09/2017
Date Adopted by LGB:	10/10/2017
Review Date:	22/09/2020
Person Responsible:	DNEAT Operations Manager

Summary of Changes

The model policy has been revised to reflect these changes to the statutory guidance as outlined below.

Page Ref.	Section	Amendment	Date of Change

Roles and Accountabilities

The Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust is accountable for all policies across its Academies. All policies, whether relating to an individual academy or the whole Trust, will be written and implemented in line with our ethos and values as articulated in our prospectus. We are committed to the provision of high quality education in the context of the Christian values of service, thankfulness and humility where individuals are valued, aspirations are high, hope is nurtured and talents released.

A Scheme of Delegation for each academy sets out the responsibilities of the Local Governing Body and Principal / Head Teacher. The Principal / Head Teacher of each academy is responsible for the implementation of all policies of the Academy Trust.

All employees of the Academy Trust are subject to the Trust's policies.

Weapons and Knives policy

This policy refers to pupils and students. In the instance of an intruder or any other person carrying a weapon or knife, criminal law applies.

Rationale

It is an arrestable offence for any person to carry an offensive weapon or knife on any school premises. It is not an offence to carry a folding pocket knife. However, in the interests of the safety and security of all DNEAT academy pupils, students, staff and visitors, **the carrying of weapons and knives of any shape or size is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN on the school premises.** By weapon we take to mean any article that could be used to injure someone and serves no other purpose in the school context.

Staff involvement where a weapon is suspected:

If a pupil or student is brandishing a weapon or knife in an aggressive manner, every attempt should be made to evacuate other pupils, students and staff from that area. Under no circumstances should a member of staff confront the offending pupil nor in any way put him or her at risk. The police should be called as a matter of urgency.

If a pupil or student is suspected of having a weapon or blade in their possession, a member of the SLT should be alerted immediately.

As a general rule, the police should be called to deal with any incident believed to involve an offensive weapon.

If, in the judgement of the most senior member of staff available, the circumstances would appear to be innocent and there is no evidence of the use of the article as a weapon, the matter can be dealt with on a disciplinary basis. If there is any doubt then the police should be called.

Where possible, staff should not confront a pupil or person suspected of possessing an offensive weapon in the presence of other pupils or students. Preferably two or more members of staff should divert the pupil or person to a place where no other pupils or students are present. Alternatively, other pupils or students should be removed from the area.

Where there is reasonable belief that a pupil or student may be carrying an offensive weapon or blade, it might be appropriate for a pupil or student, who is calm and relaxed and who has agreed to co-operate, to empty his or her own pockets/bag. This must be in the presence of another member of staff. If there remains a concern that the pupil or student may have hidden a weapon on his/her person or somewhere on the premises, then further advice should be sought from the police. The carrying of an offensive weapon places the pupil or student at risk of a permanent exclusion from the academy.

Where the pupil or student declines to co-operate, the police should always be contacted and advice sought. Where the person suspected of carrying a weapon is not a registered pupil or student of a DNEAT academy, or the incident takes place outside the school premises, the police must always be contacted as a matter of urgency.

All incidents must be reported to DNEAT using the appropriate incident form.