

# Weapons Policy

## Winton Community Academy

Reviewed in	September 2021
Next review date	September 2022

Current version	Previous version	Summary of changes made
v.2	v.1	Adaptations to link affectively to other WCA policies.

### **Guiding Principles**

It is the aim of Winton Community Academy to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of concerns around knife crime exist. In order to be able to make sensible choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of knives and other weapons, their uses and effects.

Aims:

- To ensure the safety and well-being of all students, staff and visitors
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on weapons related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to knife education in the context of the school curriculum

### **Key roles and responsibilities**

The Headteacher has overarching responsibility for weapons education and safeguarding at Winton Community Academy. This role is delegated to the Deputy Headteacher (Personal Development). They can be contacted on [safeguarding@wintoncommunityacademy.org](mailto:safeguarding@wintoncommunityacademy.org)

*All teaching staff will ensure that all items such as knives in cooking, tools in technology or any other equipment which carries risk are safely stored and used as required. Additional department risk assessments reflect this.*

### **Inclusive definition of weapons**

Winton Community Academy defines a weapon as anything which, when taken to cause harm to another, poses risk to their physical health and wellbeing.

### **Knife crime and weapons Education**

- Context

We will provide all students with relevant education as an integral part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Wellbeing programme

- Ethos

Knife crime and associated education in our Academy aims to enable students to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards knives, gangs and developing and practicing decision making skills. The programme we follow will be based on national and local guidelines for good practice and be appropriate to the age and experience of our students.

- Content and delivery

Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the differing needs and learning styles of students. It is recognised that active or participatory learning styles can be particularly helpful in developing skills, knowledge and values.

- Use of visitors and outside speakers

We use visitors to support our planned teacher lead programme of education, in line with national and local guidance. We are careful to negotiate the use of visitors so that their contribution fits our needs and they are clear how their input fits into our planned programme. The class teacher is always present when visitors are working with our students.

### **3 Managing weapons related incidents: routine arrangements**

#### **No weapon may be brought onto or taken from within the school site.**

##### **Incidents**

A weapons related incident may include any of the following:

- A student who is suspected of bringing a weapon onto the Academy site. The Academy will conduct a search whenever this is the case.
- Finding or using a weapon on the Academy site.
- Supply of a weapon on the Academy site.
- Individuals disclosing information about their use of weapons.
- Rumours or reports of weapon possession supply.

## **Process**

- The Deputy Headteacher for Personal Development, Behaviour Welfare and Safety is responsible for coordinating the management of weapons related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.
- Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and be reported to the Headteacher.
- Appropriate support will be offered to those with gang related issues.
- Where the incident has placed a member of the Academy community at direct risk permanent exclusion will be considered.

## **Permanent Exclusion**

This last resort may result from:

- An intent to provide a weapon.
- The bringing onto or use of a weapon on site that may at some point endanger any member of the community.

The final decision for permanent exclusion rests with the Headteacher

## **Individuals in possession of a weapon**

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of a weapon it will be confiscated in line with DfE guidance. Parents of students will be informed and other professionals from CWAC, Youth Service, Police, School Health Service, Social Service etc may be informed or consulted as appropriate. Appropriate investigations will be carried out and sanctions applied in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

## **Support for Students**

Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to students in distress.

## **Recording**

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours. Forms will be stored securely in the student file.

## **Confidentiality**

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will only be disclosed to anyone else in the interests of Child Protection. If a student discloses that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, action will be taken to ensure that the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk. Staff have a commitment to inform the student in advance of any disclosure of information to others and if possible enable the student to be involved in the process. Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their disclosure may implicate others. Regarding disclosures staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

## **Staff training and support**

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of PSHE education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. The Deputy Headteacher (Personal Development), or other appropriate member of staff, will organise training related to the identified needs of staff as required.

## **5 Links to other policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- [School Behaviour Policy](#)
- [School Health & Safety Policy](#)
- [School Medical Policy](#)
- [DfE Behaviour and Discipline in Schools \(2016\)](#)
- [DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation at School \(2018\)](#)
- [DfE supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions at School \(2017\)](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)