



Weapons Policy

Policy Owner	Mrs P Scott
Date Approved	
Governor Signature	
Governor Name	Mr S Hill
Governor Role	Chair

<u>Admin use only</u>	
Location	
Website	
Learning Platform	
Policies File	
Staff room	
Headteacher's File	
Policies Log updated	





Purpose and aim

The purpose of this policy is to set out clearly the preventative actions in place to prevent the use of any weapons on our site. This policy will also show the direct actions a school will take around the use of weapons on site considering the full context around each and every incident. At Loxdale Primary School we are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils, staff and parents and will always take immediate action to reduce the risk of harm to any individual on our school site.

It is illegal to carry knives or other offensive weapons on and around school premises.

The Governing Board at Loxdale Primary School recognises that the presence of weapons in the school would not only create unacceptable risks of bullying, injury or death, but also create a climate that undermines the educational purposes of the school. Accordingly, it is the school's policy to forbid the possession, custody and use of weapons by unauthorised persons in, on or around the school premises and school activities. No pupil or other person shall bring a weapon onto the school premises, nor carry or keep any weapon within the perimeter of the school site or while attending or participating in any school activities. These rules apply at all times except where a weapon is issued to a student by the school or required by the school for the purpose of teaching a curriculum activity e.g. Science, Design and Technology, Cooking, Art & Craft. Misuse of such items will be dealt with as though possession was not authorised.

Weapons

For the purpose of this policy a "weapon" is:

1. Any firearm of any description, including starting pistols, air guns and any type of replica or toy gun, pellet guns or BB guns.
2. A knife, including all variations of bladed article including pocketknives, craft knives, scissors etc.
3. Explosives, including fireworks, aerosol spray, matches.
4. Laser pens or other objects, even if manufactured for a non-violent purpose that have a potentially violent use, if, in the circumstances, the purpose of keeping or carrying the object is for use, or threat of use, as a weapon.
5. Nunchucks, death stars and other martial arts objects.
6. Screwdrivers, hammers, chisels, bradles and any tool that could be offensively used.
7. Razor, razor blades or chains.

The deliberate and intentional bringing in and/or use of weapons on our school site will not be tolerated. Any such weapons on site would create unacceptable risks of bullying, injury and possibly death and is extremely intimidating and frightening for pupils and adults alike.

If a pupil deliberately and intentionally brings a weapon onto the school site, the pupil will be placed on a fixed term suspension and a full investigation will be carried out. The police will



also be contacted, and the school will work collaboratively with partner agencies including children's social care and any other service deemed appropriate.

Searching and Confiscating

School staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees.

Schools are not required to have formal written consent from the pupil or parents for this sort of search. - it is enough for the teacher to ask the pupil to turn out their pockets or if the teacher can look in the pupil's bag or locker and for the pupil to agree.

Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item.

Searching without consent...What can be searched for? (for the purposes of this policy)

□ Knives or weapons.

□ Any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury, or damage to property.

□ Any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

The Headteacher has responsibility for authorising search powers to other staff members. There is no requirement to provide authorisation in writing.

Staff members should be the same sex as the pupil being searched; and there must be a witness (also a staff member) and, if possible, they should be the same sex as the pupil being searched, however that may not always be obtainable.

School staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item considered harmful or detrimental to school discipline.

Any weapons or items which are evidence of an offence must be passed to the police as soon as possible. (*Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies, July 2022*)

Deciding on the next course of action

From the outcome of the investigation the school must decide on the level of risk the pupil poses in school. If the risk is clear and the intent is obvious, then a fixed term suspension and a disciplinary hearing may follow or the decision to permanently exclude may be made following the necessary protocols. However, depending on the intent, the age of the child and the circumstances surrounding the incident or, the contextual issues it may be a fixed term suspension is given followed by a risk assessment/safety plan put in place following the pupil's return to school.



Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Headteacher and Governing Board have a statutory responsibility for school behaviour, discipline and safety. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school. The policy, along with other school policies, will be available on the schools' learning platform. The Governing Board will review the policy bi-annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.