



## WEAPONS POLICY

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## > 1. Introduction

There are no circumstances where anyone should bring a weapon into school.

Whilst it is acknowledged that a small minority of children from Merrywood may have been excluded from previous schools for carrying a weapon, it is imperative that all children are made aware of the seriousness and consequences of such an event.

## > 2. Merrywood will ensure the following things

That every child is safe and secure at Merrywood by providing a therapeutic and caring environment. We will ensure that we educate children about the consequences and dangers of carrying weapons, through workshops that openly discuss facts and around violent crimes.

## > 3. Actions following discovery of a weapon

If a child is discovered to have brought a weapon into school, parents/carers and the police will be informed and the consequences for that child will be discussed by the school staff and CEO. 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 behaviour and attitude of the student whilst attending Merrywood.

Contextual information will be analyzed for children and a fixed term exclusion is likely to be recommended for such a serious incident. This is to ensure the safety of everybody on our school site.

Following this discussion the CEO will:

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

## > 4. Definition of Weapons

Weapons include:

Guns	Screwdrivers
Knives	Hammers
Pellet guns	Chisels
BB guns	Razor
Air guns	Razor blades
Replica guns	Chains
Nun chucks	Scissors, etc.

Death stars and other martial arts objects

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 child 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 CEO.

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

## > 5. Use of Force

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. In this instance staff may use physical intervention for whatever is deemed necessary and proportioned necessary to retrieve the weapon and/or to protect the safety of all. 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 and storage of sharp or potentially dangerous implements.

This policy refers to the DfE documents 'Searching, Screening & Confiscation: Advice for Headteachers, school staff & governing bodies' (January 2018) and 'Behaviour & Discipline in Schools: Guidance for Head Teachers & Staff' (January 2016), and should be read in conjunction with the school's Behaviour Management Policy, Physical Intervention Policy, Searching Policy and Safeguarding Policy, alongside the school's Health & Safety guidelines.

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