

Weapons Policy



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Approved by:	Board of Trustees
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Reviewed by:	Jonty Clark
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Summary of Changes

Date	Updates	Page No.
Sept 2027	Formatting changes Updating school level changes	

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Purpose and Aim

At each of the Beckmead Trust Schools the purpose of this policy/practice guidance is to set out clearly the preventative actions in place to prevent the use of any weapons on our sites. This policy/practice guidance will also show the direct actions the school will take around the use of weapons on site taking into account the full context around each and every incident. At each Beckmead Trust school we are committed to the safety and well-being of all of our pupils, staff and parents and will always take immediate action to reduce the risk of harm to any individual on the school site.

Creating a Safeguarding Culture

In order for pupils and staff to feel safe it is necessary that everyone agrees to and works within the school's ethos and culture of vigilance and positively contributes to the sharing of information where there may be risk. A strong culture of safeguarding within school ensures that all individuals accessing the site feel safe to raise concerns, seek support and allows for seamless and consistent responses to incidents to be followed

Effective Use of the Curriculum

Having an effective curriculum in place via PSHE and PSD (Personal Social Development) will support pupils in understanding the risks around the use of weapons, the legal implications of carrying weapons and the school's response to such incidents. A curriculum that allows strong discussions around the use of weapons may act preventatively to allow pupils to think twice about the consequences of carrying a weapon and equally will create opportunities for pupils to share issues around child-on-child abuse, gang related behaviours and contextual issues in the local area that may impact on an increased use of weapons.

Working with Parents

Parents will be made aware of the school's policy around weapons. Parents should always be vigilant of the behaviours of their own children and seek support and intervention when necessary. If parents believe that their child may be carrying a weapon, they should inform the school immediately in order to protect not only their child but other children and adults. By sharing the information, immediate

intervention can be offered and a plan of support and services could be put in place without an incident occurring. By continuing good communication between home and school a positive safety plan will be created to manage the safety and the well-being of any child who may need it.

Working with Partnership

Agencies/Signposting Services and multi-agency working can consolidate in-house procedures in school. By accessing advice, support and guidance when required, effective decisions can be made in collaboration to improve outcomes for children who may be at risk of harm. Seeking advice and guidance can act as a preventative measure so that the right course of action is taken at the earliest opportunity. At each Beckmead Trust school we will continue to promote positive working relationships with Local Authority children's social care and the police to ensure that effective responses and partnership working can achieve positive outcomes for children. It is important that signposting is also available to pupils in the event that they don't feel confident raising an issue to staff or a peer in school. Therefore, external services or support programmes will be brought in to talk to young people about specific issues in support of the prevention of child-on-child abuse mapped out clearly in the curriculum.

Under no circumstances should a weapon be brought into school. If a pupil is discovered to have brought a weapon into school the police will be informed and the permanent exclusion of that pupil will be discussed by the Chair of Governors / CEO or DECO and the Headteacher.

This discussion will focus on the following issues:

- i) How the weapon was found, discovered or reported.
- ii) The nature of the weapon.
- iii) The location and storage of the weapon on school site.
- iv) Knowledge of third parties as to the weapon being in school.
- v) What the perceived purpose was of having the weapon in school.
- vi) Preceding behaviour and attitude of the pupil whilst attending Beckmead College.
- vii) It is usual for permanent exclusion to be recommended if the pupil is in Key Stages 4 or 5 unless it is judged that there are very exceptional circumstances to be considered. These circumstances may include learning difficulties or other cognitive impairments.

Following this discussion, the Principal, Headteacher or Head of School will either:

- a) Recommend permanent exclusion to the governors or:
- b) Following discussion with the parents / carers, place the pupil on a fixed term exclusion and organise a disciplinary hearing to include the pupil and representatives of the governing body, the school as well as family or carers.

Outcomes from this meeting will include:

- 1) Extension of fixed term exclusion
- 2) An agreement that the pupil will spend an agreed period of time working with outreach workers on specific targets that when met, will facilitate reintegration back onto the school site.
- 3) A managed move agreed with an agreed school, the LA and the family.

Weapons include...guns, pellet guns, BB guns, air guns, replica guns, knives, num-chukkas, death stars and other martial arts objects; screwdrivers, hammers, chisels, bradawls and any tool / resource 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 and items that could be used to injure, threaten or intimidate, such as certain types of jewellery or combs.

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 to the governing body.

If a pupil 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 between the Chair of the governing body, CEO / DCEO and the Headteacher.

Members of staff can use reasonable force to protect themselves against a weapon or when retrieving a weapon from an individual or group. In the circumstances of a pupil 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 whatever proportional physical intervention is necessary to retrieve the weapon and / or to protect the safety of all.

Dr Jonty Clark OBE
CEO The Beckmead Trust

April 28th 2026

Appendix 1

This policy/practice guidance has been heavily supported by the following key documents:

- [Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for Schools, July 2022](#)
- The Beckmead Trust Safeguarding Policy 2025

This policy/practice guidance should be read in conjunction with:

- DFE: Keeping Children Safe in Education. September 2025
- Safeguarding Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy

Appendix 2

Understanding the Law and Current Guidance

Taken from Searching, Confiscation and Screening, July 2022

Searching

"Headteachers and staff they authorise have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Under common law, school staff have the power to search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees. The member of staff should ensure the pupil understands the reason for the search and how it will be conducted so that their agreement is informed."

Screening

"Schools' statutory power to make rules on pupil behaviour and their duties as employers in relation to the safety of staff, pupils and visitors enables them to impose a requirement that pupils undergo screening. Screening is the use of a walk-through or hand-held metal detector (arch or wand) to scan all pupils for weapons before they enter the school premises. If the Headteacher decides to introduce a screening arrangement, they will inform pupils and parents in advance to explain what the screening will involve and why it will be introduced. Where a pupil has a disability, reasonable adjustments to the screening process will be made. If a pupil refuses to be screened, the member of staff should consider why the pupil is not co-operating and make an assessment of whether it is necessary to carry out a search. "

Confiscating

"An authorised staff member carrying out a search can confiscate any item that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- poses a risk to staff or pupils;*
- is prohibited, or identified in the school rules for which a search can be made; or is evidence in relation to an offence*