

# **CRESSEY COLLEGE**

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## **WEAPONS POLICY**

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## **Amendment Record**

This Weapons policy is reviewed to ensure its continuing relevance to the direction and processes that it describes. A record of additions, admissions and amendments is given below:

Version	Amendments	Date
1	Annual update to Policy. Minor amendments to formatting and wording. Approved at Management meeting dated 15 Mar 16. Authorised by JH, approved by Headteacher - AB.	15 Mar 16
2	Annual update to Policy. Approved at Management meeting dated 30 Aug 17. Authorised by JH, approved by Head Teacher – AC.	01 Sept 17
3	Annual update to Policy. Approved at Management meeting dated 29 Aug 18. Authorised by JH, approved by Head Teacher – AC.	01 Sept 18

## **Introduction**

1. There are no circumstances where **anyone** should bring a weapon into school.
2. Whilst it is acknowledged that a small minority of Cressey's students have been excluded from previous schools for carrying a weapon, it is imperative that all students are made aware of the seriousness and consequences of such an event.

## **Aims**

3. The school intends that every student should feel safe at school. Therefore the need to educate students about the dangers of carrying weapons is important and is included in our PSHE programmes. Some direct and specific work is undertaken with students thought to be at particular risk.

## **Actions following discovery of a weapon**

4. If a student is discovered to have brought a weapon into school, parents/carers and the police will be informed and the consequences for that student will be discussed by the Senior Teacher, Head of Department, Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher. This discussion will focus on the following issues:
  - a. How the weapon was found, discovered or reported.
  - b. The nature of the weapon.
  - c. The location and storage of the weapon on school site.
  - d. Knowledge of third parties as to the weapon being in school.
  - e. What the perceived purpose was of having the weapon in school.
  - f. Preceding behaviour and attitude of the student whilst attending Cressey College.
  - g. It is usual for a fixed term exclusion to be recommended if the student is in Key Stages 3, 4 or 5, unless it is judged that there are exceptional circumstances to be considered. The contextual information will be evaluated in a differentiated way for students in Key Stages 1 and 2 and it will not always be the case that a fixed term exclusion will be recommended for this age group, although this still remains an option.
5. Following this discussion the Senior Teacher will:
  - a. Inform the parent/carer of the decision.
  - b. Organise a disciplinary meeting to include the student, the school, the family or carers, police liaison officer and any other agency involved with the student (e.g. YOT/Social worker).
6. Outcomes from this meeting may include:
  - a. Extension of fixed term exclusion.

b. An agreement that the student will spend an agreed period of time working within one of the Offsite provisions, working on specific targets that when met, will facilitate reintegration back onto the school site.

c. Permanent transfer to one of the Offsite provisions (in negotiation with parent/carer & Local Authority)

### **Definition of Weapons**

7. Weapons include...guns, pellet guns, BB guns, air guns, replica guns, knives, nunchucks, death stars and other martial arts objects; screwdrivers, hammers, chisels, bradles and any tool 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.

8. 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.

9. If a student 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 Senior Teacher, Head of Department, Head Teacher and the Deputy Head Teacher.

10. If a staff member suspects that a student is carrying a weapon they should report it immediately to their senior teacher/HoD. Where possible, try to keep other students in a separate area. Staff should **not** attempt to approach the student and deal with the situation by themselves.

### **Use of Force**

11. 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 whatever proportional physical intervention is 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.**

12. 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.

### **Further information**

13. 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.