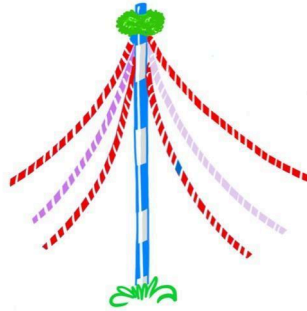


Maypole School



WEAPONS POLICY

2024-2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

Under no circumstances should a weapon be brought into school. If a pupil is discovered to have brought a weapon into school, then the police will usually be informed, and an initial meeting held to discuss how to work with that pupil going forwards. There will normally then be a disciplinary meeting which should be attended by the pupil concerned, their parent / carer, and any other relevant agencies / professionals, as appropriate.

2. DEFINITION OF A WEAPON

Weapons include guns, pellet guns, BB guns, air guns, replica guns, knives, num-chukkas, 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.

3. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Safety, and self-protection

Members of staff can use reasonable force to protect themselves against a weapon, or when retrieving a weapon from an individual or group. However, staff and pupil safety is paramount, and staff must not attempt to take a weapon from a child if it increases the immediate danger and puts them or others at significant risk of harm.

If a pupil is unwilling to hand over a weapon

In the circumstances of a pupil being unwilling to hand over a weapon to a member of staff, then an emergency call to the Police must be made, 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 all other pupils and staff should remove themselves from the area and unless it is unsafe, the pupil to be observed from a safe distance and not approached.

4. AFTER THE EVENT: INITIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS OPTIONS

Who will attend

This meeting will involve the Principal and Head Teacher in the first instance, but may also seek the advice from one or more representatives of the Governing Body. It may also involve the parent(s) / carer(s), and other agencies/police if and when appropriate.

What will be discussed

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.
- Ongoing risks if the pupil continues to attend the school premises.
- How these risks could potentially be mitigated.
- Preceding behaviour and attitude of the pupil whilst attending Maypole School.
- And any other issues that may be appropriate.

Fixed Term Exclusion

Following discussion with the parents / carers, the pupil will normally then be placed on an agreed fixed term exclusion, until a disciplinary meeting can be held (see below).

5. DISCIPLINARY MEETING

Who will attend

Following the initial discussion, a disciplinary meeting will normally then be held, unless exceptional circumstances make this inappropriate or impractical. This meeting should be attended by the pupil concerned, their parent / carer, and any other relevant agencies / professionals, as appropriate. This may include a representative from the LA's SEN team, if appropriate.

Who will Chair the meeting

The meeting will normally be chaired by the Principal or Headteacher, but if felt appropriate then the meeting may also be chaired by, or attended by, a representative of the Governing Body.

Timing

This disciplinary hearing will be held as soon after the initial meeting as is practical and appropriate.

After the meeting, the chair of the disciplinary hearing will inform the Governing Body of the outcome.

6. THE POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

Outcomes from the initial / disciplinary meeting (as appropriate) could include a fixed term exclusion, working off-site for a period, or placement closure.

Immediate return to school

An immediate return to school may be possible in some circumstances, subject to risk assessment.

Fixed Term exclusion

The fixed term exclusion up to the date of the disciplinary hearing may potentially be extended, where this is felt to be appropriate.

- **Key Stages 1 and 2.** The contextual information will be evaluated in a differentiated way for pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2, and it will not always be the case that an exclusion will be recommended for this age group; although this still remains an option.
- **Key Stages 3, 4 and 5.** It is normal for an exclusion period to be recommended if the pupil is in Key Stages 3, 4 or 5, unless it is judged that there are very exceptional circumstances to be considered.

Working off-site

Working off-site, away from the school premises while remaining on Maypole School's Roll, is an option that may be considered, where this would be appropriate. This may be either on a permanent or temporary basis.

This may include an agreement that the pupil will spend an agreed period of time working on a community project, with specific targets, that when met will facilitate reintegration back onto the school site.

Permanent Exclusion/Placement Closure

If permanent exclusion/closure of placement were to be felt to be appropriate, then this will always be discussed and agreed with the Local Authority.

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 Principal and Headteacher.