



WEST GRANTHAM

Church of England Secondary Academy

WEAPONS POLICY

Review cycle:	Annual
Reviewed by:	Assistant Principal Behaviour and Attitudes
Approved by:	Interim Executive Board

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	CHANGES
2	1 March 2023	Wayne Martini	Page 2 - DfE Exclusion from maintained schools, Academies and pupil referral units in England 2012 changed to DfE Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement September 2022 Page 2 - Education Out of School Team, Lincoln changed to Pupil Reintegration Team
3	11 July 2024	Wayne Martini	No changes made

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STATEMENT OF POLICY

No student or non-student, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use, or distribute a weapon when in the academy except as provided in this policy. The academy will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, academy employee or member of the community who violates this policy.

AIM

- To assure safe academy environments for all students, staff and academy personnel.

DEFINITIONS

- 1 A “weapon” means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; airguns; pellet guns; BB guns; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; poisons; chains and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.

- 2 No person will possess, use or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons including weapons which are broken or non-functional, look-alike guns; toy guns; and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.
- 3 No persons shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e. tools, lasers or laser pointers, belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.) to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.
- 4 “Academy location” includes any academy building or grounds, whether leased, rented, owned or controlled by the academy. The area of entrance or departure from the academy or events, all locations where academy functions are conducted, and anywhere students are under the jurisdiction of the academy.

EXCEPTIONS

A student who finds a weapon on the way to the academy or in the academy location, or a student who discovers that he or she accidentally has a weapon in his or her possession, and takes the weapon to the Principal’s office, shall not be considered to possess a weapon. If it would be impractical or dangerous to take the weapon to the Principal’s office, a student shall not be considered to possess a weapon if he or she immediately notifies a member of staff of the weapon’s location.

CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION

Appropriate academy sanctions (for example whether to permanently exclude or otherwise) needs to be at the discretion of the Principal after a full investigation into the incident has taken place, in accordance with DfE Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement September 2022. Sanctions may include some or all of the following;

1. Confiscation of the weapon;
2. Parent or Carer notification and student(s) collected immediately
3. Immediate notification of the Police
4. Exclusion for a fixed period of time (possible permanent exclusion) pending investigation
5. Inform the Pupil Reintegration Team

CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION BY NON-STUDENTS

Any member of the academy staff who violates this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including non-renewal, suspension, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the academy.

Law enforcement will be notified.

GUIDELINES FOR ACTIONS AND SANCTIONS

Guidelines for actions and sanctions following student involvement with an offensive weapon:

- **POSSESSION:**
Fixed term exclusion of five days and recommendation for permanent exclusion.
- **POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO USE OR INTIMIDATE:**
Recommendation for permanent exclusion.
- **USE OF OFFENSIVE WEAPON AGAINST A PERSON ON ACADEMY PREMISES:**
Recommendation for permanent exclusion.