

## Policy 17

### Knives and Offensive Weapons Policy 2026/2027

It is illegal to carry knives or other offensive weapons in and around Reach provision premises. The Director recognises that the presence of weapons, or items which could potentially be offensive weapons would not only create unacceptable risks of bullying, injury or death, but also create a climate that undermines the educational purposes of the provision. It is therefore the Provisions Policy to forbid the possession, custody and use of weapons by unauthorised persons in, on, or around the premises and during activities.

#### 17.1 Introduction

**17.1.1** These rules apply at all times except where an item, which could potentially be an offensive weapon, is issued to a student by a member of staff at Reach or is required by the provision for the purposes of teaching and learning, as necessary, for the delivery of the curriculum.

Misuse of such items will be dealt with as though possession is not authorised. For the purpose of this Policy a “weapon” is:

- a firearm of any description, including starting pistols, air guns and any type of replica or toy gun.
- knives, including all variations of bladed objects i.e. pocketknives, craft knives, scissors etc.
- explosives, including fireworks, aerosol sprays, lighters, matches.
- laser pens or other objects, even if manufactured for a non-violent purpose but has a potentially violent use i.e. the purpose of keeping or carrying the object is for use, or threat of use, as a weapon.

## **17.2 Procedure for Dealing with Knives and Offensive Weapons:**

**17.2.1** Under most circumstances, the Police should be informed of any incident believed to involve a weapon. However, where, in the judgement of the staff, the circumstances are wholly innocent and there is no suggestion of the use of the article as a weapon, the matter may be dealt with internally on a supportive basis.

**17.2.2** When contacting the Police, the senior lead team of staff dealing with the matter should give his/her evaluation of the seriousness of the incident, (i.e. in progress, threat to life, or weapon secure, for collection only) to help the Police to make their own judgement on the nature and immediacy of the response required. Police Community Support Officers have no powers to act under this legal framework; it is only Police officers or Reach staff. There may also be some exceptional circumstances where members of staff, who have been made aware that a weapon may be on the premises, decide that they need to act before the Police arrive. If this is the case, designated staff should always be called to assess and manage any situation where an offensive weapon is suspected.

- Members of staff may, on occasion, take possession of a knife or other weapon brought to Reach by a person in circumstances which contravene the Offensive Weapons Act 1996;
- Possession of the weapon in such circumstances by a member of staff is likely to be with good reason or lawful authority, and thus not an offence under the Act, but a member of staff in possession of a weapon in such circumstances should secure it, and pass it immediately to the Director or, in the Directors absence, the Senior Lead Team, and arrange without delay to surrender it to the Police, or
- Where satisfied that it is reasonable to do so, arrange for it to be taken away by the parent/carer of the person from whom it was taken.

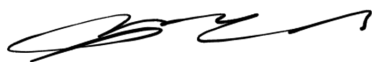
Related Policies: Safeguarding Policy

Responsible Person: Mr D Palmer

Any further questions regarding guidelines in this policy then please contact one of the leadership team.

To ensure the effectiveness of this document our 'Knives and Offensive Weapons' policy will be reviewed annually.

Signed:



Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2026

Dan Palmer

Founder / Director