



Catch22 Independent Schools Policy

Weapons

Include Suffolk

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This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

Catch22 reserves the right to amend this policy, following consultation, where appropriate.

Policy Owner:	Headteacher
Queries to:	Headteacher
Date created:	January 2018
Date of last review:	July 2024
Date of next review:	July 2027
Catch22 group, entity, hub:	Catch22 Education
4Policies level (all staff or managers only)	All Catch22 Education staff

Catch 22 MAT and Independent Schools

Education Intent Statement

Catch22's Vision:

To deliver better social outcomes through transforming public service through the 3Ps:

Place

Supporting people to find, retain, transition safely into homes and communities.

Purpose

Working with people to achieve their purpose in education, employment, or training

People

Building networks of people around individuals

Our Education Mission:

To enable young people to progress and succeed in sustained education, training, or employment.

We do this through engaging young **people** positively with their **purpose** through learning and future life aspirations. All our pupils achieve positive outcomes, thrive, and enjoy a quality education that is delivered by skilled, enthusiastic **people** with high expectations in a **place** that is safe, high quality and appropriate.

Our schools cater for young people aged 4-16 who are outside of mainstream education, many of whom have troubled and challenging backgrounds. We embody our vision in all we do to ensure our pupils are supported fully to achieve these goals.

Our Educational Intent:

Evidenced in this policy?

Brilliant basics, magic moments • Support pupils to gain academic qualifications, experiences and the skills needed to move successfully to the next stage in life. • Provide a values-based curriculum, working with pupils to build their spiritual, moral, social, and cultural capital and personal development. Relationships beat structures. • Treat pupils as individuals and help them to build bright futures in both their personal and professional lives	X X
Things about you, built with you, are for you. • Understand pupils' unique needs and help them overcome their barriers to learning. • Engage pupils with a broad and rich curriculum so they can realise their ambitions. • Make our pupils' voices heard and harness participation to benefit pupils and help our schools to improve. Unleash Greatness • Have high aspirations for our pupils so they leave us prepared for life in modern Britain and the wider world. • Instil belief in pupils so they can progress and succeed in education, training, and employment. Let robots be robots and humans be human. • Ensure pupils have a rounded understanding of themselves and the world around them. • Harness curiosity and nurture a love of learning. • Support and protect our pupils to be safe and feel safe online and offline. Incubate, accelerate, amplify. Embrace the values of 'Rights Respecting Schools;' helping pupils thrive as individuals both as members of their school and the wider community.	X X X X X

1. What is the policy about?

In line with the Behaviour Policy, all Catch22 schools apply the principle of care for oneself and others and are committed to providing a safe place/learning environment; free from the threat of harm or fatality from the use of an offensive weapon such as a knife or firearm. The safety of pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff, parents/carers and visitors who may be involved with educational establishments on a day to day or less regular basis is of paramount concern and must be protected through minimisation of risk of harm.

2. Who does this policy apply to?

All Catch22 Education staff, pupils, parent/carers, visitors, volunteers, and contractors.

3. Policy requirements

Weapons or Firearms

The school recognises the seriousness of bringing an offensive weapon or firearm onto any educational establishment. To ensure the most effective approach to this issue, the following procedures will be followed:

- **Prevention:** The school will undertake a range of actions to promote conditions that reduce the risk of a pupil bringing a weapon or firearm into an academy. This includes work with external agencies; counter gang projects and the Police; effective curriculum delivery of Citizenship; PSHE; SMSC; Fundamental British Values; and Prevent Duty. Where a risk assessment or intelligence dictates and in conjunction with local authority protocol, random searches and magnetic wand searches should be carried out, the frequency of which is to be determined during the risk assessment process and should adequately reflect the risk of firearms or weapons being carried.
- **Pupils at risk of having a weapon on their person:** The school will undertake a range of actions with regard to pupils who are identified as being at risk of bringing an offensive weapon or firearm onto a premises. This includes seeking information from

referrers, previous schools or academies and external agencies working with a pupil (Children's Services).

school will ensure that all staff understand they have a responsibility to act on information from other pupils and stakeholders. Where appropriate, unannounced searches should be conducted; the Police may assist with this.

- **Pupils who have attempted to, or have brought an offensive weapon or firearm into an academy:**

In all cases where possession of a bladed article or other offensive weapon occurs within an academy or a school it must be reported to the police, a crime will be recorded by police and investigation carried out. The offence should no longer be dealt with purely under school or academy rules, policies, and procedures.

The school staff will take the following actions when a pupil brings or attempts to bring an offensive weapon or firearm into an academy:

- At any point, if there is a concern for the safety and well-being of any pupil or staff member the Police should be called.
- Staff should also follow school procedures where offensive weapons are found or abandoned outside the grounds but in the vicinity.
- Where weapons come into staff possession, they will be retained for collection by the Police Officer dealing with the incident.
- The member of staff taking possession of the weapon, from a student, will document the incident and provide the police with a statement regarding the seizure if requested.
- Police will be granted access and a member of staff who has knowledge of the circumstances will be available to meet and explain what has happened.
- Any member of staff who receives knowledge that a pupil may be in possession of a weapon or firearm must immediately inform senior management. Based on a risk assessment of the immediate situation, the pupil should be isolated where possible and asked if they have a weapon or asked to turn out pockets and bags. If the reaction of the pupil is likely to be aggressive then the Police may be called to assist.
- If a pupil takes out an offensive weapon or firearm at any point the pupil should be isolated where possible and other pupils and staff should be removed to a safe place. The Police should be called immediately.
- Schools and academies should report to the Police all cases where pupils are found to be in possession of bladed article. Ideally this will be to a Safer Schools Officer, if available.

- Appropriate persons will be informed such as parents/carers, the police, and/or relevant agencies at the first available opportunity (at a maximum, with 24 hours of the incident taking place).
- Any situation will be recorded as an incident on SIMS and in standard paperwork. (e.g. pupil files, contact sheet) as soon as possible. The incident will be monitored until resolution and included within regular school data analysis.
- In addition, all incidents will be recorded on CPOMS and all related parent/carers, Police and/or other linked agencies linked within the system to ensure a review can take place.
- A Catch22 Near Miss form should be completed along with a Catch 22 Risk Assessment form.
- Appropriate referrals to agencies and counselling will be made on behalf of the young person within 24 hours of the incident taking place.
- Once an incident and any related Police investigations have been concluded, a review will take place with Head of Safeguarding, Academy/School SLT and Executive Principal. The aim will be to ensure that the policy was followed correctly, if any lessons are to be learned and to review the Policy.

Subsequent actions

- In consultation with or on the advice of police, school staff should document the incident and collect witness statements. Staff need to be trained if they are to provide evidential statements to the police.
- All weapons seized should be kept in a safe place and handling them should be minimised to prevent the loss of forensic evidence.
- The decision to impose school-based sanctions remain with the Headteacher and, where a permanent exclusion is being considered, the governing body. It is important to indicate if the decision is made at the time of the incident or at a later date, and how it is communicated to the pupil and the parent/carer.
- Each incident will be considered, and a measured response will be provided according to the individual circumstances and severity of the incident.
- A review of the incident should be carried out by the school with the police to determine the severity of the offense and to inform a reviewed risk assessment.
- Headteachers may decide on a Restorative Justice meeting between all parties.

school-based sanctions could include:

- Restorative justice
- Internal exclusion
- Fixed term exclusion (for further investigation)
- Permanent exclusion

Legislation

By the Offensive Weapons Act 1996, a person who without proof of good reason or lawful authority has a bladed article, an 'offensive weapon', or a firearm on school or academy premises is guilty of an offence. It is a particular defence to prove that the article, weapon, or firearm was needed for use at work, for educational purposes, for religious reasons or as part of any national costume. Imprisonment, a fine, or both may follow conviction.

A constable may enter and search school premises on having reasonable grounds for believing that an offence has been or is being committed. If they do so and reasonably suspect that an article or weapon of the kind described has been discovered, they may seize and retain it. They may use reasonable force, if necessary, to gain entry to the premises.

Exceptions

In a very limited number of instances, there may be permitted exceptions to this general legislation. These are:

- Firearms may be held for the specific supervised safe use by a Cadet Force.
- Firearms may be held for safe use by school staff in sporting events (purpose-made firearms known as starting pistols).
- Firearms or weapons may be held for safe use in some scientific experiments.

Under no circumstances may offensive weapons be brought on to or kept at any school or academy with the limited exception of personal items of religious significance as defined and qualified in "The Religious and Cultural Needs of Minority Ethnic Pupils" circulated in May 1999 in relation to schools.

Health and Safety at Work

Following important studies including that of the Working Group on School Security and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust report on Personal Safety and Violence in Schools, this policy on firearms and offensive weapons is intended to protect the health and safety of all.

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires The Academy to ensure the provision and maintenance of a safe environment at work for employees and all other persons lawfully present on its premises, that is, in so far as is reasonably practicable to do so, without risk to health or safety, and with adequate regard to facilities and arrangements for their welfare. The Act itself would not, however, prohibit the safe storage of lawfully held firearms or other lawful offensive weapons upon Catch22 premises.

4. Definitions

Bladed Article is to be interpreted as any article that has a blade or is sharply pointed.

Firearm is to be interpreted as any lethal barrelled weapon that can (or can be converted to) fire a shot, bullet, or missile.

Offensive weapon is to be interpreted as any device made, used, or adapted to cause injury or distress.

5. Related policies

- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

6. Appendices

N.A

Annex 1: Equality Impact Assessment

1. Summary

This EIA is for:	Weapons
EIA completed by:	Executive Assistant
Date of assessment:	July 2021
Assessment approved by:	Education SLT

Catch22 is committed to always: avoiding the potential for unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool for identifying whether or not strategies, projects, services, guidance, practices, or policies have an adverse or positive impact on a particular group of people or equality group. Whilst currently only public bodies are legally required to complete EIAs under the Equality Act 2010, Catch22 has adopted the process in line with its commitment to continually improve our equality performance.

Policy owners are required to complete or review the assessment indicating whether the policy has a positive, neutral, or negative impact for people who it applies to and who share one or more of the nine protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Definitions are based on the Equality & Human Rights (EHRC) guidance.

Objectives and intended outcomes

This EIA has been completed in order to ensure that the implications and potential impact, positive and negative, of this policy have been fully considered and addressed, whether or not people share a protected characteristic.

2. Potential Impacts, positive and negative

Equality Area	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Please give details including any mitigation for negative impacts
Age Does this policy impact on any particular age groups or people of a certain age?	☐	☒	☐	The policy applies equally to all members of staff and pupils regardless of age. It is not considered that the policy includes any guidance or rules that may impact either positively or negatively on members of staff or pupils because of their age.
Disability Does this policy impact on people who have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities?	☐	☒	☐	The policy applies equally to all members of staff and pupils regardless of any disability. It is not considered that the policy includes any guidance or rules that may impact either positively or negatively on members of staff or pupils because of any disability.
Gender reassignment (transsexual, transgender, trans) Does this policy impact on people who are transitioning from one gender to another (at any stage)	☐	☒	☐	The policy applies equally to all members of staff and pupils regardless of their gender at any given time. It is not considered that the policy includes any guidance or rules that may impact either positively or negatively on members of staff or pupils because of their gender.
Marriage and civil partnership Does this policy impact on people who are legally married or in a civil partnership?	☐	☒	☐	The policy applies equally to all members of staff and pupils regardless of marital status. It is not considered that the policy includes any guidance or rules that may impact either positively or negatively on members of staff or pupils because of their marital status.

Pregnancy and maternity (in work this is linked to maternity leave, nonwork this is for 26 weeks after giving birth) Does this policy impact on people who are pregnant or in their maternity period following the birth of their child?	☐	☒	☐	It is not considered that the policy positive or negatively impacts on pregnant women or on staff on maternity or paternity leave.
Race Does this policy impact on people as defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins	☐	☒	☐	The policy applies equally to all members of staff and pupils regardless of their race, origin, colour, or nationality. It is not considered that the policy includes any guidance or rules that may impact either positively or negatively in these respects.
Religion and belief Does this policy impact on people who practice a particular religion or none, or who hold particular religious or philosophical belief or none?	☐	☒	☐	The policy applies equally to all members of staff and pupils regardless of religion or beliefs. It is not considered that the policy includes any guidance or rules that may impact either positively or negatively in these respects.
Sex Does this policy impact on people because they are male or female?	☐	☒	☐	The policy applies equally to all members of staff and pupils regardless of their sex. It is not considered that the policy includes any guidance or rules that may impact either positively or negatively on members of staff or pupils because of their sex.
Sexual orientation Does this policy impact on people who are sexually attracted towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes?	☐	☒	☐	The policy applies equally to all staff and pupils regardless of their sexual orientation. It is not considered that the policy includes any guidance or rules that may impact either positively or negatively on members of staff or pupils because of their sexual orientation.