

# Weapons Policy

## Pathway CTM Limited

Office: 0208 059 0710

VAT No: 262 6034 22

Company No: 09545140

[www.pathwayctm.com](http://www.pathwayctm.com)

**Contents**

Dealing with Knives and Offensive Weapons Policy & Procedure Policy .....3  
The law.....3  
Responsibility .....3  
Procedure for Dealing with Knives and Offensive Weapons .....4  
If this is the case.....4  
A member of staff carrying out a search .....4  
Reporting Procedure .....5

## **Dealing with Knives and Offensive Weapons Policy & Procedure Policy**

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

### **The law**

The Prevention of Crime Act 1953 covers the law on offensive weapons and defines weapons as anything made, adapted or intended to be used as a weapon. Section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 covers the law on possessing pointed and bladed items. The Firearms Act 1968 covers law on firearms. As well as gun and ammunition legislation, section 5 of this act deals with prohibited items which includes tasers, incapacitant sprays (e.g. CS gas) and weapons that are disguised as everyday items. The Firearms Act also deals with imitation firearms and air weapons such as BB guns. Within the law, the possession of ammunition (e.g. bullets) even without a firearm is as serious as possessing a firearm. [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) Guidance on current legislation and restriction on knives and offensive weapons.

For the purpose of this Policy a “weapon” is:

- a firearm of any description, whether loaded or unloaded from which a shot may be discharged including but not limited to pistols, revolver, shotgun, rifle, bb gun and any type of replica or toy gun.
- knives, including switchblade, gravity, billy, blackjack, 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 ie: the purpose of keeping or carrying the object is for use, or threat of use, as a weapon
- metal knuckles, bludgeon, bow and arrow, electronic stunning device.

Any student found to be in breach of the Policy shall be subject to permanent exclusion from the Programme. In some circumstances the police may also be contacted.

### **Responsibility**

- A competent member of staff (trained in risk assessment) must ensure that the risk assessment for each programme includes to mitigate the use of weapons.
- Anyone working for or on behalf of Pathway CTM must not put themselves in harm’s way.
- If dealing with a situation the staff member should ensure the safety of themselves first, then the other children, young people or adults at risk involved in the situation, then the person with the weapon
- Pathway CTM will minimise the risk of weapons being brought or used on a programme by making it clear to students at the onset of a programme that students are forbidden to have weapons of any kind. Breaches of this could lead to exclusion from the programme.
- Staff are not qualified to distinguish a real firearm from a replica or air weapon.
- It should be noted that orthodox Sikhs carry Kirpans which are knives used as part of their religion. The knives are usually blunted but can measure between 5-8 inches. It is usually carried in a holster at their side and under garments. Staff should be aware of this as a religious practice. If the Kirpan is used inappropriately then the Weapon’s Policy should be implemented

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

Under most circumstances, the police should be informed of any incident believed to involve a weapon by calling 999. 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 disciplinary basis. When contacting the police, a senior member 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. There may also be some exceptional circumstances where members of staff, who have been made aware that a weapon may be on premises, decide that they need to take action 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:

- where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a student might have in their possession an offensive weapon, knife or blade, it might be appropriate for an authorised member of staff, to conduct a search of that student or his/her possessions, with or without the student's consent.
- in making that decision, a risk assessment approach should be adopted, and it should be noted that such immediate preventive action could either prevent a potentially dangerous situation escalating or could, conversely, inflame the situation.
- such a search may only be carried out where the member of staff and student are on premises or are elsewhere and the member of staff has lawful control or charge of the student.

### **A member of staff carrying out a search:**

- may not require a student to remove any clothing other than outer clothing, i.e., any item of clothing not being worn wholly next to the skin or immediately over a garment being worn as underwear.
- must be of the same sex as the student.
- may carry out the search only in the presence of another member of staff who is also of the same sex as the student.
- a student's possessions (including any goods over which he/she appears to have control) may not be searched except in his/her presence and another member of staff.
- if in the course of a search the member of staff finds anything, he/she suspects of falling within the knives and offensive weapon category, or any other thing he/she suspects is evidence in relation to an offence, he/she may seize and retain it.
- 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 Offences Weapon Act, but a member of staff in possession of a weapon in such circumstances should secure it, and pass it immediately to the CEO or, in the CEO's absence, the Operational Manager, 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 school/parent/carer of the person from whom it was taken.

## **Reporting Procedure**

Following any incident, the member of staff or anyone working on behalf of Pathway CTM will be required to report and record full details of the event, including people involved, actions taken and reasons for the actions.

The CEO and/or safeguarding team will liaise with the student's school and follow all guidance issued by the safeguarding partners.

The CEO and/or safeguarding team will regularly monitor all reports, reviewing any findings and learnings and changing safeguarding arrangements where necessary.

*Ch*

[Chris McNamara \(Jan 20, 2021 21:14 GMT\)](#)

---

**Chris McNamara**  
**CEO**

<b>DOCUMENT CONTROL</b>	
<b>Doc Ref:</b>	December 2020
<b>Document Full Title</b>	Weapon's Policy
<b>Document Version number</b>	V.1
<b>Document stored in</b>	Safeguarding Support Limited
<b>Owned by:</b>	Pathway CTM
<b>Authorised by:</b>	Chris McNamara
<b>Date:</b>	December 2020
<b>Review Date:</b>	December 2021
<b>Circulation:</b>	All Staff and Volunteers Website Clients