



Knives and Offensive Weapons Policy

At Greasley Beauvale Primary School, the Governors recognise the importance of ensuring equal opportunity for all children and adults. The Governors will continue to ensure that this is an essential element of all school policies and actions.

The right to develop, learn and work in an environment free from discrimination is implicit in our school's ethos and embodied in its Vision.

Our Vision:

At Greasley Beauvale Primary and Nursery School, our vision is for everyone to **reach their true potential, nurture their talents** and foster a personal **love of learning** through a **safe, engaging and challenging curriculum. We take notice of each other** and **strive to be healthy and happy in body and mind.** We **champion physical, emotional and mental wellbeing** to **promote the best outcomes for everyone** to **build a healthy future together.**

At Greasley Beauvale Primary and Nursery School, you are “Learning for Life” to “Paint Your Own Rainbow”

This latest update of this policy was written in September 2024. The Full Governing Body approved it remotely through the School Bus.

Nominated SLT member responsible for policy: Michelle Bates

Next review date: September 2026

Signed: _____ (Chair) Date: _____

Knives and Offensive Weapons Policy

It is illegal to carry knives or other offensive weapons on and around school premises. The Governing Body at Greasley Beauvale Primary School recognises that the presence of weapons in the school, 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 school. It is therefore the school Policy to forbid the possession, custody and use of weapons by unauthorised persons in, on, or around the school premises and during school activities.

These rules apply at all times except where an item, which could potentially be an offensive weapon, is issued to a child by a member of staff at the school or is required by the school 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.: pocket knives, 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.

Any child found to be in breach of the Policy shall be subject to action under Greasley Beauvale Primary School's Behaviour Policy. This could mean a fixed period of suspension or permanent exclusion from the school. In some circumstances the police might also be contacted.

Procedure for dealing with knives and offensive weapons in school

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 disciplinary basis.

When contacting the Police the school's 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.

Police Community Support Officers, have no powers to act under this legal framework, it is only Police officers or school staff.

There may also be some exceptional circumstances where members of staff, who have been made aware that a weapon may be on school premises, decide that they need to take action before the Police arrive. If this is the case:

Designated staff, from the Senior Management Team (SMT), 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 child might have in their possession an offensive weapon, knife or blade, it might be appropriate for the Head Teacher, or an authorised member of staff from the SMT, to conduct a search of that child or his/her possessions, with or without the child'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 child are on school premises or are elsewhere and the member of staff has lawful control or charge of the child.

Before any searches and confiscations are carried out the following guidance should be adhered to and reviewed regularly: [Searching, screening and confiscation in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

A member of staff carrying out a search will follow the above guidance and:

- may not require a child 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 child;
 - may carry out the search only in the presence of another member of staff who is also of the same sex as the child;
- a child'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 ;
- members of staff may, on occasion, take possession of a knife or other weapon brought to school 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 Head Teacher or, in the Head Teacher's absence, the Deputy Head Teacher, and arrange without delay to surrender it to the Police,
- 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.
- where the designated person confiscates the knife or weapon for the police, this will be held in the Head Teacher's office in a locked cabinet or drawer for safety and any criminal investigation;
- all records of the incident, weapons used and any actions to be implemented, will be recorded on the school's safeguarding, behaviour, SEND and wellbeing reporting system (CPOMS)

Related Policies:

Anti-Bullying Policy

Behaviour Policy

Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy

Early Help Policy

Exclusion Policy

Coping With Risky Behaviours Policy