

Anti-Weapon Guidance



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1. Background

Following the tragic event at Cults Academy on the 28th October 2015 an independent multi-agency review was commissioned by members of a Chief Officer's Group.

The aim of the review was to provide independent assurance and recommendations for future practice. The independent review made 21 recommendations which were considered by multi-agency partners in developing this protocol.

2. Legislation and Children's Rights

Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995.

Any person who without lawful authority, or reasonable excuse, has with him/her in a public place, any offensive weapon commits an offence.

Children's Rights

Our responsibilities are set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, physically or mentally. Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them." (Article 19)

3. Guidance Objectives

- To clarify expectations of schools with regard to weapon/knife crime.
- To clarify expectations of school staff with regard to the searching of pupils' personal belongings.
- To outline links to Aberdeen City Council Anti Bullying Policy

4. Expectations of Schools

4.1 Curriculum Input

Primary and Secondary schools have been provided with an anti-weapon pack containing educational resources, some of which have been adapted from resources shared by the Ben Kinsella Trust in London.

SCHOOLS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share the age appropriate learning resources and lessons provided specifically for Primary 7 pupils. Schools can deliver these resources where and when appropriate to their individual curricular structures and design.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work in partnership with Police Scotland to deliver the anti-weapon/knife crime presentations and assemblies to all Secondary 1 and Secondary 5 pupils.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage pupil councils and forums to have regular discussions of agenda items linked to the broader area of carrying weapons within schools. This will allow pupils to share their knowledge and to use the pupil voice to further develop safe practices.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide pupils with an opportunity to feedback on the resources in the pack so that improvements can be made where appropriate.

4.2 Non-curricular Expectations

Within the Aberdeen City Council anti-weapon school pack there are promotional materials to assist schools in highlighting the main messages of anti-weapon/knife crime.

SCHOOLS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure the contents of the pack are displayed and distributed appropriately throughout their establishment and to the wider school community thus promoting a zero tolerance approach to the possession of weapons/knives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the Anti-Weapon guidance with all staff to ensure they are aware of procedures and adhere to them.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secondary schools to deliver a tabletop exercise to test school procedures for dealing with a weapon related incident.

4.3 Parental Engagement

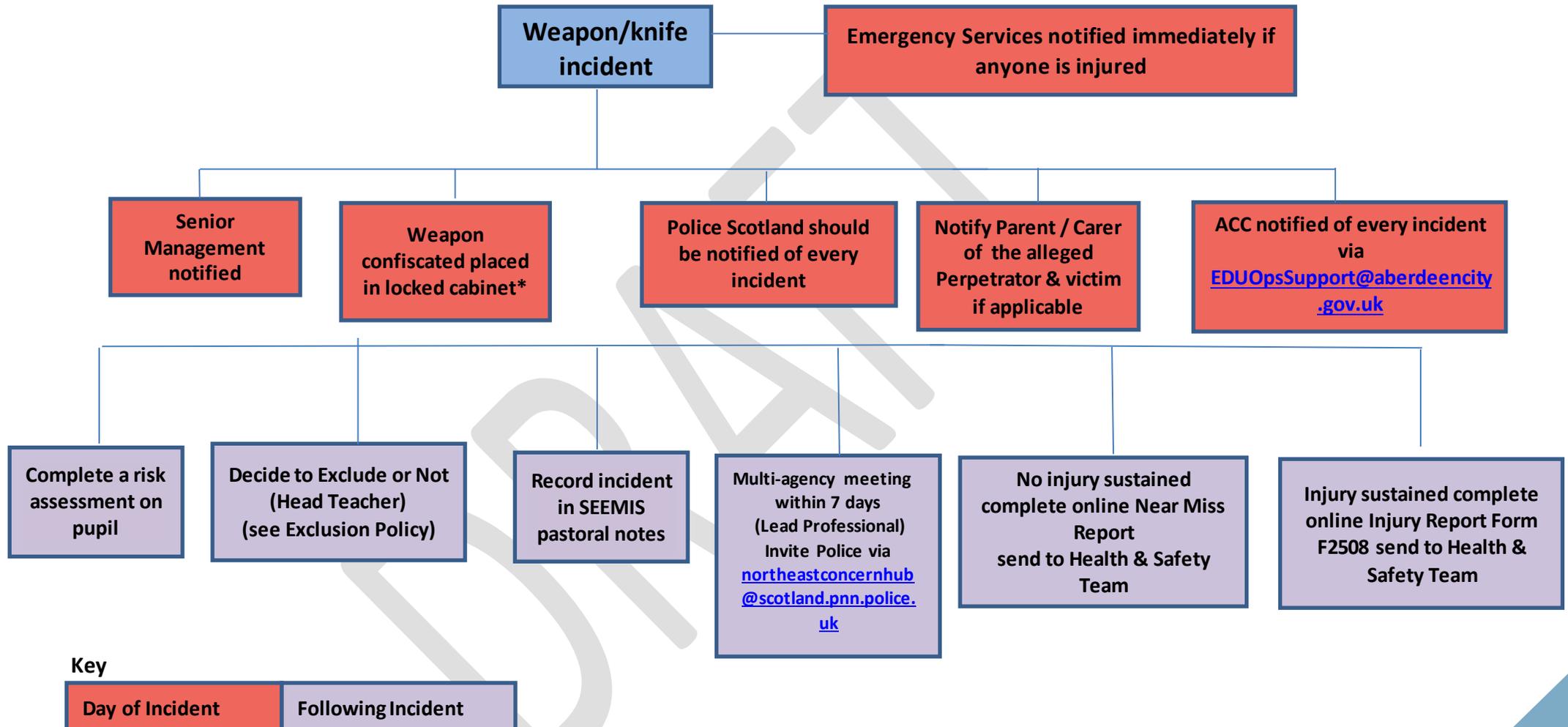
Aberdeen City Council has provided a parent guidance leaflet which presents the facts on weapons crime and the consequences of carrying a weapon. Parents and carers have a responsibility for ensuring that their child receives appropriate guidance which should include educating them about the dangers of weapons.

Aberdeen City Council will also provide a parent agreement letter setting out the expectations of the school with regard to weapons/knives. It is the parent's responsibility to read the letter, sign it and return it to school. If a child is old enough he/she should also sign the agreement letter.

SCHOOLS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools should share the Anti-Weapon guidance with Parent Council.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools are responsible for ensuring that parents/carers receive both a parent agreement letter and a guidance leaflet.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Incorporate the parent letters into the school's Primary 1 induction pack and also put out again to S1 pupils capturing transition from P7 –S1.➤ Ensure new pupils/parents/families from out with Aberdeen City Council receive the parent letter as part of the school's induction pack.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All parent agreement letter returns should be recorded on SEEMIS using the ACC tab.

It is important to emphasise that the success of the Anti-Weapon/Knife Crime Strategy lies heavily on all adults modelling and presenting the appropriate messages and behaviours.

5. Procedural Guidance for Incident Notification and Reporting



***Do not attempt to disarm a pupil armed with a weapon seek support from Police Scotland.
Please note Child Protection Services should only be contacted if the incident constitutes a child protection issue.**

6. Pupil Searches

If there is reason to believe that a pupil is carrying a knife or other offensive weapon the following steps should be followed –

Do not attempt to disarm a pupil armed with a weapon seek support from Police Scotland.

In accordance with the law of Scotland searches must be made with the pupil's consent.

Physical searching of a pupil can only be carried out by Police Scotland.

Where consent is given the Head Teacher or nominee can undertake searches of the pupil's belongings.

Where no consent is forthcoming schools will contact Police Scotland

A minimum of two adults should be present at any search for safety & potential evidential reasons

Parents will be informed of any searches

Any weapon/knife found in a pupil's possession will be confiscated and stored in a locked cabinet awaiting action by Police Scotland

7. Link to the Aberdeen City Council Anti-Bullying Policy

The 2023 ACC Education Settings - Anti-Bullying Policy has been launched and implemented within Aberdeen City schools. This revised service-wide Policy provides a framework to support schools in developing their own local level policy to meet the needs of their school and school community.

Our expectation for the local level policies, key messages and ethos is to keep a high profile in everyday practice, through relationships between staff, parents/carers, children and young people to foster respectful relationships and behaviours.

8. Useful Contacts

Police Scotland	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Parentline	08000 28 22 23
Childline	0800 1111
Respect Me (Scotland's Anti-bullying Service)	www.respectme.org.uk
Barnardos	www.barnardos.org.uk
Children 1st	www.children1st.org.uk
Ben Kinsella Trust (London)	www.benkinsella.org.uk
Scottish Action for Mental Health	0141 530 1000 info@samh.org.uk
Penumbra Self Harm Service Aberdeen	www.penumbra.org.uk 01224 621266