

Policy 7.7 – Offensive Weapons

Policy Version	Author	Review Date
Version 1 - September 2019	NH	September 2020
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Statement of Policy

It is a criminal offence to carry an offensive weapon or knife onto Bridge Training Ltd premises. Offensive weapons are defined as any article made or adapted for causing injury to the person or intended by the person having it with them for such use by them on some other person.

No student or person including adults and visitors shall possess, use, or distribute an offensive weapon or knife when on Bridge Training premises or if wearing a Bridge Training and/or identity badge uniform.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to assure a safe environment for students, staff, and the public.

Definition of an Offensive Weapon or Knife

Offensive weapons are defined in the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 as “any article made or adapted for causing injury to the person; or intended by the person having it with him/her for such use by him/her”. Sections 139 and 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 excludes a folding pocketknife.

Bridge Training considers a folding pocketknife to be an offensive weapon and, as such, are covered by this policy and are banned from our sites.

A weapon means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use can threaten or produce bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury.

No person shall possess, use, or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons; this includes weapons which are broken or non-functional, look-alike guns, toy guns and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.

No person shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e. belts, scissors, pencils, etc) to inflict bodily harm and / or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

Staff Involvement when a Weapon is Suspected

The Senior Leadership Team will make the decision as to whether the police should be called to deal with any incident believed to involve a weapon. There may be exceptional circumstances where staff may decide to act before the police arrive. Staff should not confront a student or person suspected of possessing a weapon in the presence of other students if this can be avoided. Preferably two members of

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staff should divert the student or person to a place where no other students are present.

If a student is suspected of possession of a weapon, the member of staff involved must immediately inform a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Where the person suspected of carrying a weapon is not an enrolled student at Bridge Training or where an incident takes place outside the premises, then the matter must be immediately reported to the police, the responsibility will lie with the police to undertake any search.

Weapons or Knives Confiscated

If a member of staff takes possession of a knife or other weapon, the following procedures must be followed:

- The member of staff in possession of a weapon in such circumstances should secure it immediately and either:
 - 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 from Bridge Training by a parent / carer of the student from who it was taken (this must be following a decision by the Senior Leadership Team)
 - Some weapons are per se offensive (e.g. flick knives, knuckle dusters); in no circumstances should these be returned, and the police must be informed.
 - In cases where weapons are returned, a record will be made by the Bridge Training Ltd

Consequence

Any student and/or staff member, visitor found in possession or distributing an offensive weapon or knife whilst at Bridge Training is liable to immediate permanent exclusion and/or disciplinary.