



ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

February 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

Aberdeen City Council's Anti-Weapon/Knife School Rules

In Aberdeen City Council schools the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, staff and visitors is of paramount importance and we ensure that all of our schools follow the correct procedures in order to minimise risk.

A zero tolerance approach to the possession of a weapon or knife in school has been implemented in order to ensure, as far as possible, that pupils, staff and visitors are kept safe from harm.

Within our curriculum we will educate all pupils on the risks of weapon/knife crime and the serious consequences of carrying an offensive weapon.

Aberdeen City Council's Anti-Weapon/Knife School Rules are attached for your information.

Please sign the attached form confirming that these Rules have been shared with your child and return the signed form to the school. If your child is old enough, he/she should sign the pupil section of the form. *(We suggest that most children from primary 4 upwards will be old enough to understand the Rules but your child's individual needs should be taken into account in deciding whether it would be appropriate to ask him/her to sign the form)*

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Head Teacher

GAYLE GORMAN
DIRECTOR



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Aberdeen City Council's Anti-Weapon/Knife School Rules

The following Rules apply across all Aberdeen City Council schools in order to ensure a consistent approach to the issue of weapon /knife crime. All schools are required to send the attached letter to parents/carers requesting that the Rules be shared with their children. Schools will also maintain awareness of this issue through a range of approaches such as assemblies or class lessons.

The Rules are as follows:

- No weapons/knives will be brought in to any school.
- Police Scotland will be notified whenever it is discovered that a weapon/knife has been brought into a school. This may lead to criminal prosecution of the pupil in question.
- The Head Teacher or his/her nominee will undertake a search of a pupil's bag and personal belongings where they suspect that the pupil is in possession of a weapon/knife and where the pupil consents to the search. If the pupil does not consent, Police Scotland will be notified and they will carry out the pupil search.
- Any weapon/knife found in the possession of a pupil will be confiscated and stored in a locked cabinet awaiting action by Police Scotland.
- Parents/carers of a pupil who is found to be in possession of a knife/weapon will be informed by the school.
- A risk assessment will be carried out in relation to any pupil known or suspected to have carried a weapon/knife and an action plan will be put in place if required.

Agreement - Anti-Weapon/Knife Crime

PARENT/CARER

As the parent/carer of

I have read **Aberdeen City Council's Anti-Weapon/Knife School Rules** and understand that these Rules apply to my child.

I have discussed **Aberdeen City Council's Anti-Weapon/Knife School Rules** with my child and explained their importance and the serious consequences of carrying a weapon/knife.

Parent / Carer's Signature.....

Date.....

PUPIL

I have read **Aberdeen City Council's Anti-Weapon/Knife School Rules** and understand that these Rules apply to me. I understand the importance of these Rules and the serious consequences of carrying a weapon/knife.

Whilst a pupil in an Aberdeen City Council School;

1. I will not carry any weapon/knife to school.
2. I understand that my personal belongings will be searched if it is suspected that I am carrying a weapon/knife.
3. If I do not give my consent to be searched by school staff, then I know that Police Scotland can search me.
4. I understand that, if a weapon/knife is found in my possession, it will be confiscated.
5. I understand that, if a weapon/knife is found in my possession, Police Scotland will be notified.

Pupil's Signature

Date