

**Guidance for Schools in Tameside for  
Dealing Knife Crime and Weapons  
Found on School Premises**

**Agreed October 2020  
Reviewed December 2021**

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document has been written to give schools in Tameside guidance on how to report incidents when a pupil has in their possession a knife, bladed article or weapon on school premises.

*(School defined as; land used for the purposes of a school, excluding dwellings used by a person employed by the school e.g. caretakers residence).*

1.2 This document does not cover the many strands of legislation in relation to knife crime other than to say that it is;

**'A criminal offence to have in a public place any article which has a blade or is sharply pointed (including a folding pocket knife if the cutting blade exceeds 7.62cm/3inches)'. S139A CJA 1988 specific offence of blade or pointed instrument on school premises.**

In **ALL** cases of knife crime (as defined above) incidents **MUST** be reported to the Police.

This is the link to the DFE guidance in relation to searching, screening and confiscating weapons, giving advice for head teachers, school staff and governing bodies:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/674416/Searching\\_screening\\_and\\_confiscation.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf)

1.3 Reporting knife crime to the Police is the first step in developing effective prevention strategies. The crime recording data can be used for early identification of trends and crime patterns in schools and in the local community. By using this information Schools, Police and other Partner agencies can intervene before a problem becomes entrenched. This multiple strand approach is essential to tackling and reducing serious violent crime and knife crime in our communities and schools. Additionally, it also gives the police and partner agencies the opportunity to work with those identified in a more holistic approach.

## 2 WHAT ACTION TO TAKE

2.1 There are two ways of schools reporting incidents to the Police:

1. Where there is an **immediate** Police response required **DIAL 999**.

Immediate response is defined as;

- **Danger to life**
- **Immediate threat of serious violence**
- **Serious injury to a person**
- **Serious damage to a property**

If there is **no immediate threat** and **no necessity** for a police officer to attend on the day of the incident then the school should notify their police school liaison officer within 24 hours via email to the following addresses: [12408@gmp.police.uk](mailto:12408@gmp.police.uk); [15373@gmp.police.uk](mailto:15373@gmp.police.uk) and [Valerie.Rayner@gmp.police.uk](mailto:Valerie.Rayner@gmp.police.uk)

2. .

2.2 A police school liaison officer will record the relevant crime and make contact with the school within 24 hours of receiving the report in order to discuss the incident further and collect any seized items relating to the crime.

2.3 The school is also requested to notify the Youth Justice Service using the inbox [yotbusinesssupport@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:yotbusinesssupport@tameside.gov.uk), providing the name and date of birth of the young person involved, along with details about the most appropriate person to contact in the school.

2.4 The Youth Justice Service will arrange for a multi-agency meeting to take place at the school within five working days in order to gather information and support the school in assessing any potential risk. The meeting will be attended by representatives from the School, Police and Youth Justice Service; if the young person and their family are already open to other services then key workers from these agencies will be invited to attend. In instances where the young person and their family are not known or currently open to Children's Social Care, then a representative from the Local Authority's Early Help Access Point team will attend.

2.5 Appendix 1 is a flowchart that outlines the process and provides further detail regarding considerations for the multi-agency meeting.

### **3 WHAT ACTION CAN THE POLICE TAKE?**

3.1 The following is guidance only as there are a number of options available to the Police when dealing with knife crime - in particular youths with knives.

3.2 Each incident will be looked at individually and a number of factors will be considered including community safety, aggravating / mitigating factors, age and details surrounding the incident.

3.3 The Association of Police Officers (ACPO) give direction on dealing with youths and knife crime with disposals ranging from Youth Caution / Youth Conditional Caution and Charge. All of these disposals will result in the individual's details being recorded against the crime on the Police National Computer (PNC).

3.4 However, Greater Manchester Police and Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council recognise that there may be mitigating factors that have resulted in the young person carrying a knife. Subject to these mitigating circumstances, Community Resolution may be a way of disposal without the necessity to 'criminalise' the individual.

3.5 In the event you require Police advice prior to contact by your police school liaison officer we request that you contact the 101 number.

**IN ALL CASES ANY ITEMS SEIZED SHOULD BE STORED IN A SECURE  
LOCKED LOCATION PENDING POLICE ARRIVAL**

*(For further information on the specific legislation and powers within schools please refer to the **Education Act 1996**)*