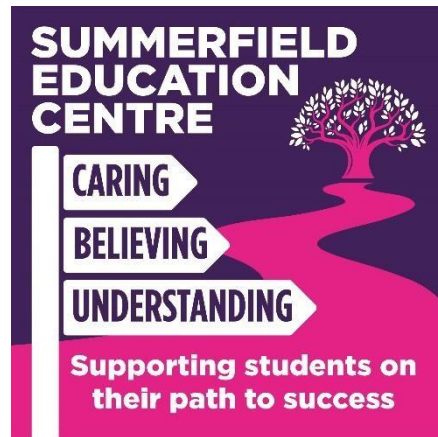


Summerfield Education Centre

Use of Knives within the school setting (Appendix to Behaviour Policy)



Date Ratified: 15 th Feb 2022	Review Date: December 2022
<i>Erinne O'Riordan</i>	<i>T. E. Whitehouse</i>

During the school day pupils will use knives in the following ways:

- School lunches (Cutlery)
- Food Technology (Kitchen knives)
- Art and Design (Craft knives)

A risk assessment is available for each of those areas and includes the following:

- ALL knives are to be counted out and in to ensure safe return.
- ALL knives are to be kept in a locked room and/or locked cupboard/draw.
- ALL pupils must be supervised when using knives.

In addition to the above, any member of staff who brings a knife into school for their own personal use, must ensure this is locked away securely e.g. put in their locker. Knives being brought into school is extremely serious. We follow the DfE Searching, screening and confiscation advice – January 2018.

- School staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees.
- Head Teachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. (Knives and/or weapons comes under this category)
- Searching must be carried out by a member of staff who is the same sex as the pupil and there must be another member of staff present.
- There is a limited exception to the above rule. You can search a pupil of the opposite sex to you and/or without another member of staff present, but only where you reasonably believe that there is a risk that serious harm could be caused to a person if you do not conduct the search immediately

and where it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff.

- Schools are not required to inform parents before a search takes place or seek their consent to search their child.
- The school will follow their Behaviour Policy if a knife/weapon is found.

Screening:

- At our school we require pupils to undergo screening by a hand-held metal detector (Wand) even if we do not suspect them of having a weapon and without the consent of the pupils. Any member of school staff can screen pupils.
- If a pupil refuses to be screened the school may refuse to have the pupil on the premises.
- The school will follow their Behaviour Policy if a knife/weapon is found.