

Ealing Safer Schools Partnership

Offensive Weapons in Schools Protocol

1. Introduction

1.1 The Children and Young People's Plan: It's everybody's business.

The plan establishes how partner agencies will continue to work together to improve those outcomes that will make significant improvements to the lives and life-chances of Ealing children and young people.

All agencies across Ealing who work for our children and young people share a single vision:

Together with families, we will improve the lives and life chances of the children and young people in Ealing.

The vision is underpinned by three shared values:

- We will put children and young people first every time
- We will have the highest aspirations and ambitions for all our children and young people
- We will make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people.

Ealing's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership has identified four key areas to improve outcomes for children and young people to be taken forward. These priority areas are:

- Build child and family resilience
- Be healthy and active
- Raise achievement and attainment
- Stay safe
 - We will work across the partnership to ensure that the right of every child to live in a safe and secure environment, free from abuse, neglect and harm is protected.
 - We will identify and protect children and young people at risk of harm and ensure that they feel safe.

1.2 Safer Ealing Partnership Plan 2017-19.

The Safer Ealing Annual Plan outlines the main priorities for the Safer Ealing Partnership, which have been identified through the Strategic Assessment, and through consultation with residents.

The following **relevant Plans** set out how the Partnership will work together to tackle crime and disorder priorities building on best practice around effective crime reduction and clear objectives and outcomes to be achieved. These include:

- Reducing Violent Crime
Achieve a 10% reduction in violence with injury offences.
- Increase the detection of Sexual Offences
Increase the sanctioned detection rate of all sex offences in Ealing to exceed the MPS average.
- Reduce the harm of drugs supply in our communities through policing.
A reduction in drug related admissions to A&E, Reduced theft from shops and improved resident's perception of harm from drugs supply in their community
- Reduce the number of repeat victims of anti-social behaviour by 8%.

There are additional plans in place which focus on:

- The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Youth Justice Service Business Plan and inspection improvement plan
- Health and Wellbeing Board Plan

- Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards annual plans
- Children and Young Peoples Plan

The Partnership will continue to deliver and focus on Police and Crime Commissioners identified areas within the Police and Crime Plan which include:

- A better police service
- A Criminal Justice System for London
- Keeping children and young people safe
- VAWG
- Hate crime and counter terrorism

Focus on young people under Peer on Peer Abuse. This will include work in relation to identified serious youth violence, drugs markets, knives, firearms, trafficking, Child Sexual Exploitation, and cyber-crime. Particular focus on contextual violence and risk, harm and vulnerability will be essential.

What will be done?

- A whole borough active stance on addressing drug dealing in the community.
- Universal education offer within Secondary schools.
- Implementation of a trauma informed model across services recognising the strong associations between victims, perpetrators, trauma, childhood conduct disorders, and violent behaviour – increasing the level of people within the children’s workforce economy trained.

2. The Aim of the Protocol

The aim of this protocol is to set clear guidelines that enable schools, police and other services in Ealing to ensure that learners and staff are protected and the carrying of offensive weapons and violent behaviour is discouraged through:

- Early identification of potential problems.
- Early intervention.
- The support, agreement and collaborative approach of schools, police and other services.
- Proactive enforcement.

2.1 Definition of Offensive Weapon

Section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 provides that an offensive weapon is *“any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him or by some other person.”*

The vast majority of young people attending Ealing schools will not be affected by serious violence or carry weapons. However, where these problems do occur there will almost certainly be a significant impact. Schools, both primary and secondary, have a duty and a responsibility to protect and safeguard their learners and staff. Ealing schools are safe places where learners are offered high quality teaching and learning opportunities enabling them to leave school with qualifications and access to greater employment opportunities.

Each school, special school, college, sixth form provider or alternative providers must have a strategy in place to ensure learners:

- feel safe at school all the time;
- understand very clearly what unsafe situations are; and
- be highly aware of how to keep themselves and others safe.

However even low levels of youth violence can have a disproportionate impact on schools and communities.

Success in learning is one of the most powerful indicators in the prevention of youth crime and dealing with youth violence effectively can help attainment and attendance.

In adopting this protocol we will ensure that schools are safer places where important interventions can take place to prevent violent behaviour, including the carrying of weapons and violent incidents that take place in the community.

2. Staff powers

Teachers have a number of legal powers (May 2013) to manage learners' behaviour and impose discipline. The main ones are listed below.

- A statutory power to discipline learners, which includes the power to issue detentions and to confiscate inappropriate items (Education and Inspections Act 2006). The Department for Education's (DfE's) advice for headteachers and school staff on the power to discipline¹.
- A statutory power to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils (Education and Inspections Act 2006). The DfE's advice to schools on this power².
- Power to search pupils without consent for a number of 'prohibited items'. These include: - knives and weapons; - alcohol, illegal drugs and stolen items; - tobacco and cigarette papers; - fireworks; pornographic images; - any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property; and any item banned by the school rules that has been identified in these rules as an item that may be searched for³.

2.1 Guidance on searches

Schools in England have powers to search and screen pupils and confiscate prohibited items. The Department for Education released Departmental Advice entitled Searching, screening and confiscation in February 2014. This advice applies to all schools in England. **See Appendix 2 for full details.**

2.2 School procedures

Staff discovering or identifying learners carrying an Offensive Weapon.

- Learners and parents are communicated with and notified of an offence immediately.
- Police must be notified immediately of all incidents of all incidents where a learner is in possession of a knife or other offensive weapon.
- Where offensive weapons are found or abandoned outside the school grounds but in the vicinity. Staff should also follow school procedures in these circumstances which is to firstly the Safer Schools officer.
- There is a Safer Schools officer in post covering Ealing secondary schools. **(Appendix 5).**

¹www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/behaviourpolicies/f0076803/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools-a-guide-for-headteachers-and-school-staff

²www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/behaviourpolicies/f0077153/use-of-reasonable-force

³www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/behaviourpolicies/f0076897/screening,-searching-and-confiscation

- In emergencies where immediate action is needed where there is threat to staff / students / community then contact will be made by reporting the incident by phone on the **999** system. For non-emergencies it is the Safer Schools Officer, or if unavailable 101.
- Where weapons come into staff possession they will be retained for collection by the Police Officer dealing.
- The member of staff taking possession of the weapon, from a student, will document the incident and provide police statement regarding the seizure if requested.
- It's important to recognise that police should be granted access and a member of staff who has knowledge of the circumstances available to meet and explain what has happened.

2.3 Subsequent actions

- In consultation with or on advice of police school staff should document the incident and collect witness statements. Staff need to be trained if providing evidential statements to the police.
- All weapons seized should be kept in a safe place and handling them should be minimised as it could lead to loss of forensic evidence.
- The decision to impose school-based consequences remain with the Headteacher and governing body. It is important to indicate if the decision is made at the time of the incident or at a later date, and how that is communicated to the learner and family.
- Each incident will be considered, and a measured response provided according to the individual circumstances and severity of the incident.
- A risk assessment should be carried out by the police on the severity of the offence and if appropriate presented at Fair Access Panel to consider the most appropriate action for the learner. This would be on the request of the Fair Access Panel Chair to Ealing Safer Schools. This will be presented at Fair Access.
- Headteachers may decide on a Restorative Justice meeting between all parties, where appropriate and diversionary support for perpetrator from the Youth Justice Service (YJS) and Ealing Council's Community Safety Team. This can also be supported by a Safer Schools officer.
- School based consequences could include:
 - Restorative justice
 - Internal exclusion
 - Fixed term exclusion (for further investigation)
 - Managed move to Alternative Provision, another Ealing school or a school outside the borough
 - Permanent exclusion

3. Police Action

Once informed of the incident police will make the decision on the appropriate action to be taken, this will depend on the gravity of the offence and specific factors concerning the young person. These may include:

- Previous incidents that have come to notice at the school or through police contact such as arrest or previous prosecution.
- Prevalence of offence in local area.
- Attitude of offender.
- Age of offender.

Where a decision is made to question or arrest the offender they will be usually required to attend a police station.

Once all the evidence has been gathered the police (maybe in consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service) will make a decision on the appropriate disposal of the matter. Such disposal can run in parallel with any action the school may have taken or is considering.

The disposal will consider the following options:

- Take no further action.
- Warn the suspect in accordance with the Legal Aid, Sentencing & Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 and referral to the YJS for a triage / youth caution / youth conditional caution - where diversionary support for perpetrator can be offered.
- Charge to Court.

The final decision will be based upon the learner's previous offending history, details of the specific incident and any other mitigating circumstances. The issue of exclusion from school will remain the decision of the school's Headteacher.

3.1 Non-arrest decision

Where a decision is agreed upon not to arrest or prosecute an offender then in all cases the school will facilitate an internal restorative justice conference to be run by the school and which can be supported by Safer Schools officers.

See Appendix 3: Bladed Articles and Offensive Weapons Guideline Consultation Youths (Pxx - these are used by courts to assess the seriousness of the offence).

3.2 Offences available for Weapon offences (also see Appendix 3)

Offence	Gravity score	Aggravating factors
Possession of Offensive Weapon for 16 – 17-year olds	4	Method of use Concern caused to member(s) of the public Degree of danger
Possession of Offensive Weapon for 10 – 15-year olds	3	Circumstances of possession Concern caused to member(s) of the public Degree of danger
Possession of a sharp pointed blade for 16 – 17-year olds	4	
Possession of a sharp pointed blade for 10 – 15-year olds	3	Circumstances of possession Concern caused to member(s) of the public
Threatening with article with blade or point or offensive weapon in public or on school premises Section 142 LASPO Act 2012 For 16 – 17-year olds	4	Minimum of 4 months DTO so must charge

Threatening with article with blade or point or offensive weapon in public or on school premises Section 142 LASPO Act 2012 For 16 – 17-year olds	4	
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4. Support from Ealing Police

Ealing police are willing to advise and support any school to educate learners, through assemblies and PHSE, on the dangers and consequences of violent behaviour and carrying offensive weapons. Support can also be given in detecting weapons in schools. See **Appendix 5 for the list of Safer Schools Officers.**

4.1 Presentations

There are a range of presentations that change from time to time and which are available from the Safer Schools officers.

4.2 Search Arches - an effective tool

The use of arches on a random basis acts as a deterrent and may prevent escalation of previous incidents. Safer Schools officers or Safer Neighbourhood officers can act as an advisor/ support and deal with any offences found.

Ealing Police and / or Ealing YJS is able to provide extra hand-held search 'wands' to facilitate searching.

Pre-agreements will enable staff to be trained and allow the deployment of the arch at the earliest possible time.

It is the role of the school to inform pupils and parents of the possibility of the powers under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 being exercised.

The use of these arches should be considered to assist in sending out the joint prevention message. The knife arch has previously been deployed across the Borough by police teams in public places and has been widely utilised by Safer Transport on the bus networks.

Readiness for reintegration would be based on the following:

- Learner's progress at EAP – attendance, punctuality and academic progress.
- The learner does not commit any further weapon offences whilst at EAP – in school or out of school.
- There are no further arrests and any YJS Order is complete.
- The learner has a clear understanding of the consequences of the weapons offence for themselves and any victim.
- There is a collaborative programme of 'offensive weapons awareness' provided to the learner by YJS or the police.
- The learner has completed a programme of restorative justice in order to encourage a 'fresh start'.
- A risk assessment and an Education Psychologist's report should be completed.
- There is no guarantee of a second chance if the learner reoffends or does not meet the school's behaviour policy.

These principles would apply where a child or young person is placed in other Alternative Provision.

5.1 Youth Justice Service

Trauma informed offensive weapon awareness:

- Support for young people registered with the YJS.
- Target on offensive weapons possession for those who have been charged.
- Four to six-week engagement phase – building relationships, assessing trauma, assessing risk, safety and wellbeing.
- Programme will cover peer on peer abuse, context and environment, self-image, group dynamic, letter to self, impact of violent offending on staff (Vicarious Trauma).

5. Other resources

6.1 MOPAC Resources

- Toolkit: Talking to Young people about knife crime . Launched in [Nov 17](#) but refreshed.
- The toolkit contains existing resources and initiatives that have been specially developed, including:
 - * campaign material templates
 - * lesson plans<[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london-needs-you-alive-toolkit3.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.london.gov.uk_sites_default_files_knife-2Dcrime-2Deducational-2Dtoolkit-2Dlesson-2Dplans.pdf&d=DwMFAQ&c=OMjwGp47Ad5otWI0_lpOg&r=WR8arahnj5UyNEHk_SQ2LiBleB9t8_gm4NXMkK-Ok2ug37dTNZFTPUlw4PFC6KrY&m=jT_Vcek0r2PQrYaOEoF3jnT9rYktNd_OvvJSy1r2ID4&s=Nazka22MjowD-anYGpkUslV76pkLtyZ5bfN3vUodGQg&e=>* inspirational actives* links to free courses, training and useful contact details* information about the London Needs You Alive campaign and details of the other things we're doing to combat knife crime.<p><a href=)<[#### **Summer Activities locator for young people**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.london.gov.uk_sites_default_files_london-2Dneeds-2Dyou-2Dalive-2Dtoolkit3.pdf&d=DwMFAQ&c=OMjwGp47Ad5otWI0_lpOg&r=WR8arahnj5UyNEHk_SQ2LiBleB9t8_gm4NXMkK-Ok2ug37dTNZFTPUlw4PFC6KrY&m=jT_Vcek0r2PQrYaOEoF3jnT9rYktNd_OvvJSy1r2ID4&s=Fvuc_dgka8ZbeaMTkn78Je_2Wi626MXJFZpl2Ily1jk&e=></p></div><div data-bbox=)

This could be widely used including with young people working with YJS Teams

https://www.london.gov.uk/our-london/<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.london.gov.uk_our-2Dlondon_&d=DwMFAQ&c=OMjwGp47Ad5otWI0_lpOg&r=WR8arahnj5UyNEHk_SQ2LiBleB9t8_gm4NXMkK-Ok2ug37dTNZFTPUlw4PFC6KrY&m=jT_Vcek0r2PQrYaOEoF3jnT9rYktNd_OvvJSy1r2ID4&s=vHiOCnZzEUQ13Y6fo6wRi2DGHft-gHiFhvyZ6vHbAIM&e=>

LAs /Partners can add their own activities at:

https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/our-london-summer-activities/add-your-event?utm_source=GLA&utm_medium=internal&utm_campaign=OurLondonSummer<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.london.gov.uk_what-2Dwe-2Ddo_education-2Dand-2Dyouth_our-2Dlondon-2Dsummer-2Dactivities_add-2Dyour-2Devent-3Futm-5Fsource-

[3DGLA-26utm-5Fmedium-3Dinternal-26utm-5Fcampaign-3DOurLondonSummer&d=DwMFaQ&c=OMjwGp47Ad5otW10 lpOg&r=WR8arahnj5UyNEHkSQ2LiBleB9t8 gm4NXMkk-Ok2ug37dTNZFTPUlw4PFC6KrY&m=jT_Vcek0r2PQrYaOEoF3jnT9rYktNd_OvvJSy1r2ID4&s=3fBsNT4AM7_mUxtthdo- GWjxMFRXEQ62SdWc23fzAg&e=>](#)

For this policy to be successful in protecting students, staff and the public in our communities, it will need to be implemented by all schools and services.

Appendix 1

5 TIPS ON HOW TO STAY SAFE

- AT HOME
- AT SCHOOL
- ONLINE
- ON THE STREETS

DRUGS DESTROY LIVES

Drugs can kill your:

- future
- family relationships
- hope
- community

CHOOSE NOT TO TAKE DRUGS

For confidential help contact:
The Hub
www.thehub-lifeline.org.uk
020 8690 3020

BULLYING IS UNACCEPTABLE

Going to school should be fun, inspiring and challenging and a place to meet friends and learn – a place you want to be.
A bully is someone who makes you feel scared or unsafe, or gets you do things you don't want to do.

TELL AN ADULT YOU TRUST

Useful websites:
www.bullying.co.uk
www.childline.org.uk
(search for 'bullying')

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SHARE

What you share, upload or post on social networks can affect your future, your family or your relationships – or someone else's – for a very long time.

- Be safe
- Be respected for the right reasons
- Respect others

TELL AN ADULT YOU TRUST IF YOU ARE WORRIED

For tips visit: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

GOOD v BAD RELATIONSHIPS

A good relationship:

- loves you
- cares for you
- trusts you
- is there for you

A bad relationship is with someone who:

- misses you
- is vulnerable with you
- forgives you.

GET OUT OF BAD RELATIONSHIPS

Get confidential help:
www.refuge.org.uk/athena-lewisham
0800 112 4052

NOTHING KILLS A FUTURE LIKE A KNIFE

If you carry a knife you are much more likely to be stabbed yourself. Carrying a weapon to protect yourself is still a crime and can carry a prison sentence of up to four years even if you don't use it.

DON'T CARRY A KNIFE

Get help: www.childline.org.uk
(search for 'knives')

USEFUL WEBSITES

- www.childline.org.uk or call free on 0800 11 11
- www.talktofrank.com or call free on 0800 11 11
- www.fearless.org report crime anonymously
- www.disrespectnobody.co.uk relationship abuse
- www.themix.org.uk or freephone 0808 808 4994 essential support for under-25s
- www.gangline.com or freephone 0800 032 9538 confidential helpline for young people involved in or attracted to gangs

Appendix 2

School powers to search and screen pupils for offensive weapons¹

Schools in England have powers to search and screen pupils and confiscate prohibited items. The Department for Education released Departmental Advice entitled Searching, screening and confiscation in February 2014. This advice applies to all schools in England.

What is a “prohibited item”?

- Prohibited items include:
- knives or weapons;
- alcohol;
- illegal drugs;
- stolen items;
- tobacco and cigarette papers;
- fireworks;
- corrosive substances;
- pornographic images;
- any article that a member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence or injure a person or damage property; and
- any item which a school policy specifies as banned and able to be searched for.

Schools should clearly state in their behaviour policy which items are prohibited. The headteacher must publicise this policy in writing to staff, pupils and parents annually. Maintained schools must do so in accordance with section 89 Education and Inspections Act 2006. Academy schools must do so in accordance with the School Behaviour (Determination and Publicising of Measures in Academies) Regulations 2012 Offensive Weapons.

Screening pupils at school

Schools can force pupils to be screened by a walk through or hand-held metal detector whether or not they suspect the pupil of having a weapon and without that pupil's consent. Any member of staff can screen pupils. This type of screening without physical contact differs from the power to search pupils, as explained below.

If a pupil refuses to be screened, the school may refuse to allow the pupil on to the premises. This will be treated as an unauthorised absence and not an exclusion. For more information on unauthorised absences see our information page on School attendance and absence.

Searching pupils with consent

School staff can search pupils with their consent for any item. The consent does not have to be in writing. If a member of staff suspects that a pupil has a prohibited item and the pupil refuses to agree to be searched, then the school can punish the pupil in accordance with their school policy.

A headteacher or a member of staff authorised by the headteacher can carry out the search for prohibited items where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item. The member of staff must be the same sex as the pupil and another member of staff should act as a witness. However, a search can be carried out by a member of staff who is of the opposite sex to the pupil and without a witness where the staff member reasonably believes that there is a risk of serious harm to a person if such a search is not carried out immediately and it is not reasonably practicable to call another member of staff. In such cases, staff should take into account the increased expectation of privacy for older pupils.

What are reasonable grounds for suspicion?

Members of staff must decide in each case what constitutes reasonable grounds for suspicion. For example, they may have heard other pupils talking about the item or notice a pupil behaving in a suspicious manner. The school can rely on CCTV footage to help reach their decision. These powers apply regardless of whether any prohibited item is found on the pupil.

Where can searches be carried out?

Searches without consent can only be carried out on the school premises or, if elsewhere, where the member of staff has lawful control of the pupil e.g. on school trips in England or in training settings.

What requirements are there during the search?

The extent of search

Pupils can only be required to remove 'outer clothing'. 'Outer clothing' means clothing that is not worn next to the skin or immediately over a garment that is being worn as underwear. Outer clothing includes hats, shoes, boots, gloves and scarves. The power to search without consent permits a personal search involving the removal of outer clothing and searching of pockets. Staff cannot carry out an intimate search; this can only be carried out by the police.

Searching a pupil's possessions

A pupil's possessions can only be searched with the pupil and another member of staff present unless there is a risk of serious harm to a person if the search is not carried out immediately and it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff. 'Possessions' mean any goods over which the pupil has or appears to have control including desks, lockers and bags.

Searching lockers and desks

Schools can search lockers and desks with the pupil's consent. Schools can make it a precondition of having a desk or locker that pupils will agree to a search whether or not the pupil is present. If a pupil refuses to allow the search, then schools can still carry out the search for prohibited items.

Use of force

When conducting a search for any prohibited item as listed above on this page, members of staff can use such force as is reasonable, given the circumstances and where there is a risk to pupils, perpetrator, staff or premises. However, force cannot be used to search for items solely banned under school rules.

When can a school confiscate an item?

Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006* gives schools power to discipline pupils which enables a member of staff to confiscate, keep or dispose of pupil's property as a disciplinary measure where it is reasonable to do so. Staff have a defence to any complaint provided they act within their legal powers. The law protects members of staff from liability for any loss of or damage to any confiscated item (see prohibited items above), provided that they have acted lawfully.

* http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/pdfs/ukpga_20060040_en.pdf

Items confiscated pursuant to a 'with consent' search.

Staff can use their discretion to confiscate, keep or destroy any item found provided it is reasonable in the circumstances. If any item is thought to be a weapon it must be passed to the police.

Items confiscated pursuant to a 'without consent' search.

A member of staff can seize anything that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item or is evidence in relation to an offence.

Is there a duty to inform parents about a search?

There is no obligation on schools to inform or seek the consent of parents before a search. It is good practice, and a Ealing recommendation, for schools to inform a pupil's parents/guardians where alcohol, illegal or harmful substances are found (unless there are safeguarding concerns) although there is no legal requirement to do so.

Schools do not have to make or keep a record of a search. It would be good practice and a Ealing recommendation to keep a record of any searches to create an audit trail for any potential complaints. Any complaints about screening or searching should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure. See our information page on Complaints to schools for more details on how to do this.

Appendix 3

Factors to consider when assessing an offensive weapons incident in school

Mitigating Factors (-)	Aggravating Factors (+)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous good character and/or exemplary conduct • Genuine mistake or misunderstanding (eg did not remember the knife was in the offenders possession) • Vulnerability of the offender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mental disorder or learning disability ○ Particularly young or immature pupil ○ Offender is or was at time of offence suffering from significant mental or physical ill-health and offence is not likely to be repeated ○ A permanent exclusion might exacerbate any physical or mental ill-health • Participated in incident due to peer pressure/bullying • Offender was influenced by others more criminally sophisticated • Provocation from victim or victim's group and offender reacted impulsively • Little or no planning • Co-operation with the school • Unstable upbringing including but not limited to numerous care placements, exposure to drug and alcohol abuse, lack of attendance at school, lack of familial presence or support, victim of neglect and/or abuse, exposure to familial criminal behaviour • Determination and/or demonstration of steps taken to address incident • The offence is minor and offender has put right harm or loss caused; has expressed regret; offered reparation or compensation • The offence is so old that the relevance of any response is minimised, i.e. there has been a long delay between the offence occurring and the point of decision making – Unless the offence is serious; the offender contributed to the delay; the offence only recently came to light; or the complexity of the offence has contributed to long investigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weapon used or violence threatened • Evidence of planning/premeditation • Pupil in a group or gang or offence was committed by a group • Offender was ringleader/organiser • Established evidence of community/wider impact • Deliberate humiliation of victim, including but not limited to filming of the incident, deliberately committing the incident before a group of peers with the intent of causing additional distress or circulating details/photos/videos etc of the incident on social media or within peer groups • Victim is targeted due to a vulnerability (or a perceived vulnerability), deliberately put in considerable fear or suffered personal attack, damage or disturbance • Offence motivated by discrimination against victim's racial or ethnic origin, religious beliefs, gender, political views or sexual preference • Steps taken to prevent the victim reporting or obtaining assistance and/or from assisting or supporting in the resolution of the incident • Incident committed with intent to commit a sexual offence • Location of the incident (eg public ie incident is known within the school and/or the wider school community • Attempts to conceal/dispose of evidence • Failure to respond to warnings about behaviour • There are grounds for believing the offence is likely to be repeated or continued – e.g. by a history of recurring conduct

In law for 10-15 year olds, possession only of an offensive weapon usually results in a Youth Caution or a Youth Conditional Caution. The young person can be charged but this is only likely if the circumstances of the possession eg the degree of danger and the concern caused to pupils and staff warrant a charge.

This chimes well with many schools response to possession which can be to facilitate a managed move for a first possession of a knife.

Threatening with a blade or offensive weapon in public or at school normally results in a charge for 10-15 year olds, and again schools would normally permanently exclude for such an incident.

With offensive weapons, as with any major incident that puts a child at risk of permanent exclusion, it is good practice to consider the impact of any decision on the child, and, as is in sentence guidance, schools should also consider the welfare of the child (see mitigating factors, vulnerability of 'offender').

The fact that a sentence threshold is crossed does not necessarily mean that is the sentence that should be imposed.

When sentencing, new draft guidelines will require courts to assess the seriousness of the offence by considering the following non-exhaustive mitigating and aggravating factors.

Appendix 4 References

1. <http://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/school-powers-to-search-and-screen-pupils/>
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/40/pdfs/ukpga_20060040_en.pdf
2. ACPO Youth Offender Case Disposal Gravity Factor Matrix (March 2013)
<http://cps.gov.uk/legal/assets/uploads/files/Gravity%20Matrix%20May09.pdf>
3. Draft Sentencing Guidelines on bladed articles and offensive weapons (March 2017)
<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmjust/1028/1028.pdf>
4. <https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Draft-guideline-Bladed-articles-and-offensive-weapons-guideline.pdf>

Appendix 5

This table provides the details of Officers working in Secondary Schools in Ealing. These details are correct as of the 10th of September 2019. These details are likely to change in October 2019

Name of School	Safer Schools Officer Contact
Acton High	Covered by Shaq Mughal
Ada Lovelace	Covered by Dave Traynor
Alec Reed Academy	Covered by Dave Traynor
Brentside High	Covered by Steve Murru
Cardinal Wiseman	Covered by Diane Reddy
Dormers Wells High	Uncovered
Drayton Manor	Covered by Steve Murru
Ealing Fields High	Covered by Diane Reddy
EAP (Study Centre)	Covered by Shaq Mughal
Ellen Wilkinson	Covered by Armen Petrossian-Salmasi
Elthorne Park High	Covered by Diane Reddy
Featherstone High	Uncovered
Greenford High	Covered by Lou Behenna
Northolt High	Covered by Lou Behenna
Twyford High	Covered by Armen Petrossian-Salmasi
Villiers High	Covered by Steve Murru
William Perkins	Covered by Dave Traynor

Contact details

Ealing Police Youth Team

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