

Firearms policy

Reviewer: Dan Higgins, Chief Operating Officer June 2026.

Approved by SMT: June 2026

1. Introduction

The Head of College and governing body are responsible for establishing and implementing arrangements that will ensure the safety of all who may be affected by the College's undertakings including pupils, staff, parents and visitors. These arrangements are reinforced by limiting unnecessary risks or accidents which may arise from firearms or other offensive weapons being brought on to or kept on the College campus.

The College does not permit any firearms or other offensive weapons to be brought onto or kept on the College campus except where expressly authorised under this policy and in accordance with relevant legislation. All restrictions in the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 also apply.

2. Definitions

A **firearm** is to be interpreted as any lethal barrelled weapon that can (or can be converted to) fire a shot, bullet or missile.

The **College campus** is to be interpreted as all College buildings, grounds, vehicles and any other premises under the control of the College.

An **offensive weapon** is to be interpreted as any device made, used or adapted to cause injury.

3. Exceptions

In a limited number of instances, there may be permitted exceptions to this general proscription.

These are that firearms may be held:

- For the specific supervised safe use by the Combined Cadet Force
- For safe use by College staff in sporting events (purpose-made firearms known as starting pistols).

Existing guidance must be referred to where such firearms are kept in order to ensure that they are legally held, used and kept safely.

These exceptions must be agreed in writing by the Head of College.

4. Review arrangements

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Head of College and Governors to ensure its continued effectiveness and compliance with relevant legislation.