



GREENHEAD COLLEGE

STOP AND SEARCH POLICY

1. **Introduction**

Under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, the college has statutory powers to search, with reasonable grounds for suspicion and without consent, students at the college.

Note: It is a criminal offence to have a knife or offensive weapon on college premises (Criminal Justice Act 1988). It is allowed to have knives in college for educational or lawful purposes.

2. **College Strategy**

College strategy should ensure that students are informed on starting at college that the carrying of knives and offensive weapons is illegal and that the college has legal powers to stop and search.

3. **Reasonable Suspicion**

Reasonable suspicion should be:

- based on facts relevant to the likelihood of finding a weapon
- linked to accurate and current information.

4. **College Procedures**

- If there is sufficient concern that a student is carrying a dangerous weapon, then the police may be called immediately.
- With reasonable suspicion, and if it is felt safe to do so, the Principal or other senior member of staff may ask the question of a student. It would be safer for two members of staff to be present.
- If the student admits to carrying a weapon, then the weapon should be confiscated and student disciplinary procedures take place. The weapon should be handed to the police at the earliest opportunity.
- If the student denies carrying a weapon and reasonable suspicion still holds, then the police should be informed.
- A full incident report should be entered in the Incident Book kept in the Front Office.

Approved by the Governors on 10 March 2008