

07/03/24

**Weapons Policy**

St. Edmunds Charity is committed to providing a working and living environment that is safe for staff, clients, contractors, and all visitors and therefore the deliberate and intentional of bringing in and /or use of weapons will not be tolerated. The use of such weapons on site would create unacceptable risks of bullying, injury death and is extremely frightening and intimidating for staff and clients alike.

If a staff member deliberately and intentionally brings a weapon site this will result in disciplinary proceedings, and if a client (or their visitors) bring weapons onto St. Edmunds Charity’s premises the client risks losing their accommodation.

St Edmunds Charity encourages and supports the participation of clients in hobbies or sport(s) activities, and will continue to do so, however should a client participate in a sport or leisure activity that includes the use of weapons those weapons cannot be stored on St. Edmunds Charity’s property or grounds

**The weapons included in this policy are:**

* a firearm of any description, including starting pistols, air guns and any type of replica or toy gun, pellet guns or BB guns;
* swords, daggers, machetes, meat-cleavers or sporting-knives;
* hammers, chisels, bradles or axes;
* ornamental weapons;
* numchukkas, chains, death stars or other martial arts weapons;
* weapons that are used in historical re-enactments;
* bullets or cartridges;
* explosives, fireworks, ballistics, and/or materials that could be used to make those;
* laser pens or other objects, even if manufactured for a non-violent purpose but has a potentially violent use i.e., the purpose of keeping or carrying the object is for use, or threat of use, as a weapon;
* Screwdrivers, hammers, chisels, bradles and any tool that could be offensively used.

**Additional Information**

The Offensive Weapons Act 2019 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2021 brings into force specified provisions of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019.

A new offence of possessing an offensive weapon in private (e.g. your own home) has now been created and came into force on 14th July 2021.

It is a summary only offence, meaning it can only be dealt with in the Magistrates’ Court, and carries a maximum of 6 months’ imprisonment.

**Type of Offensive Weapons**

Offensive weapons come in 3 categories;

1. Offensive weapons per se; items whose main or only purpose is to be used as a weapon – e.g. a bayonet.
2. Items adapted for use for causing injury to a person – e.g. a baseball bat with nails through it.
3. Items carried by a person with the intention to cause injury to another – e.g. a tyre iron or baseball bat if the person in possession of the item intended to cause injury to another person.

Items which are inherently dangerous but manufactured for a lawful purpose, such as kitchen knives, are not offensive per se. They would fall into category 3 if someone possessed one with the intention of causing injury to another person.

Offensive weapons, as defined by the s.141 Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) Order 1988 and the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment) Order 1988 are deemed as offensive weapons per se.

s1 Prevention of Crime Act 1953 states that  “Any person who without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on him, has with him in any public place any offensive weapon shall be guilty of an offence…”

However under these new provisions it now illegal to possess offences weapons, as defined by Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) Order 1988 (and additions), in your own home.

**s.46(2)(1A)(a) of Offensive Weapons Act 2019 sets out the following;**

*“Any person who possesses a weapon, to which this section applies, in private is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction in England and Wales, to imprisonment*  *to* *a term not exceeding 51 weeks, to a fine or to both.”*

Offensive Weapons as defined by s.141 of Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) Order 1988 (and additions) are set out below;

**1. Knuckleduster**

A band of metal or other hard material worn on one or more fingers, and designed to cause injury, and any weapon incorporating a knuckleduster.

**2. Swordstick**

A hollow walking-stick or cane containing a blade which may be used as a sword.

**3. “Handclaw”**

A band of metal or other hard material from which a number of sharp spikes protrude, and worn around the hand.

**4. “Belt buckle knife”**

A buckle which incorporates or conceals a knife.

**5. “Push dagger”**

A knife the handle of which fits within a clenched fist and the blade of which protrudes from between two fingers.

**6. “Hollow kubotan”**

A cylindrical container containing a number of sharp spikes.

**7. “Footclaw”**

A bar of metal or other hard material from which a number of sharp spikes protrude, and worn strapped to the foot.

**8. “Shuriken”, “shaken” or “death star” (aka ninja/throwing star)**

A hard non-flexible plate having three or more sharp radiating points and designed to be thrown.

**9. “Balisong”** or **“butterfly knife”**

A blade enclosed by its handle, which is designed to split down the middle, without the operation of a spring or other mechanical means, to reveal the blade.

**10. “Telescopic truncheon”**

A truncheon which extends automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring or other device in or attached to its handle.

**11. “Blowpipe”** or **“blow gun”**

A hollow tube out of which hard pellets or darts are shot by the use of breath.

**12. “Kusari gama”**

A length of rope, cord, wire or chain fastened at one end to a sickle.

**13. “Kyoketsu shoge”**

A length of rope, cord, wire or chain fastened at one end to a hooked knife.

**14. “Manrikigusari”** or **“kusari”**

A length of rope, cord, wire or chain fastened at each end to a hard weight or hand grip.

**15. Disguised knife**

Any knife which has a concealed blade or concealed sharp point and is designed to appear to be an everyday object of a kind commonly carried on the person or in a handbag, briefcase, or other hand luggage (such as a comb, brush, writing instrument, cigarette lighter, key, lipstick or telephone).

**16. Stealth knife**

A knife or spike, which has a blade, or sharp point, made from a material that is not readily detectable by apparatus used for detecting metal and which is not designed for domestic use or for use in the processing, preparation or consumption of food or as a toy.

**17. Straight, side-handled or friction-lock truncheon** (sometimes known as a baton)

**18. Sword with a curved blade of 50 centimetres or over in length (e.g. Katana)**

For the purposes of this sub-paragraph, the length of the blade shall be the straight line distance from the top of the handle to the tip of the blade.

**19. “Zombie knife”**, **“zombie killer knife”** or **“zombie slayer knife”**

A blade with;

1. a cutting edge;
2. a serrated edge; and

* images or words (whether on the blade or handle) that suggest that it is to be used for the purpose of violence.

**20. “Cyclone knife”** or **“spiral knife”**

A weapon with;

1. a handle,
2. a blade with two or more cutting edges, each of which forms helix, and

* a sharp point at the end of the blade.

If clients have any of the above weapons in their accommodation, or are storing them within St. Edmunds property or its grounds they are at risk of losing that accommodation and as such are also committing an criminal offence and are liable for prosecution

Review date 06/03/27

St.Edmunds Charity, St. Edmunds Court, 87 & 110 Clement Royds Street, Rochdale OL12 6PL

Registered Charity No. 1061509