

# Firearms policy

*(Dan Higgins, Chief Operating Officer. Approved by SMT September 2023)*

## **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 school'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 school campus.

The school does not permit any firearms or other offensive weapons to be brought on to or kept on the school campus, as laid out in The Offensive Weapons Act 2019.

## **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 school campus is to be interpreted as all buildings and grounds at a school.

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 school 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**

The Head of College and Governors will review the implications of the above policy on a regular basis.