



Knives on Campus

May 2026

Knives on Campus

Borders College recognises that knives are required for certain areas of the curriculum, including Construction, Hospitality, Art & Design, and Gamekeeping (this list is not exhaustive).

The purpose of this guidance is to ensure that all students who use knives as part of their course do so safely and responsibly at all times.

General Policy

It is College policy that no personal knives are to be brought onto any College campus, into any building, or to any work placement.

Knives Used as Part of Your Course

- All knives used during teaching must be the property of Borders College and not owned by students.
- Knives will be issued to students by the course tutor/lecturer when required to support practical work.
- All knives must be returned at the start of each break and at the end of the day.
- Tutors/lecturers will check and count all knives to ensure they have been returned.

If a knife is not returned, this may be treated as theft and may be reported to the Police.

Any student who fails to return a knife, or who behaves in an unsafe manner, will be managed in line with the College's Positive Behaviour, Anti-Bullying & Harassment Policy. Carrying a weapon or an item intended to be used as a weapon is classed as a **Serious Behaviour**.

All Departments

- Any damaged knife must be placed in a sharps bin or handed to the Health & Safety Manager for safe disposal.
- Stanley knives must not be used under any circumstances at Borders College. Safer alternatives are always available.

Consequences of Bringing a Knife to Campus.

- **First instance** – If this is a genuine one-off and accidental, you will be reminded of the policy and asked not to bring knives onto campus again.
- If anyone is found to be carrying a knife or other weapon with the intent to be used as a weapon, the disciplinary process will be immediately evoked in line with the **Serious Behaviours section of the College Positive Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy**.

Information can be found:

[Scottish knife law – BASC](#) and [Carrying knives – BASC](#)

Prohibited knives in line with current legislation:

Baton	A straight, side-handled or friction-lock truncheon.
Belt buckle knife	A buckle which incorporates or conceals a knife.
Butterfly knife or “balisong”	A blade enclosed by its handle. Designed to split down the middle to reveal the blade without using a spring or other mechanical means.
Cyclone or spiral knife	A blade with a handle, a sharp point at the end and one or more cutting edges that each form a helix.
Disguised knife	A blade or sharp point hidden inside something that looks like a commonly carried everyday project. For example; a comb, a pen, cigarette lighter, key, lipstick or phone.
Flick knife, gravity knife, Switchblade or automatic knife	A knife where the blade opened automatically or is released from the handle, by gravity or by pressing a button or something else on the knife.
Footclaw	A bar of metal or other material worn strapped to the foot, from which a number of sharp spikes come out
Handclaw	A band of metal or other hard material worn on the hand, from which a number of sharp spikes come out
Hollow Kubotan	A cylinder-shaped container, containing a number of sharp spikes.
Knuckleduster	A band of metal or other hard material that is worn on one or more fingers and is designed to cause injury. This also includes any weapon that incorporates a knuckleduster.
Kusari or ‘manrikigusari’	A hard weight or hand grip fastened to each end of a piece of rope, cord, chain or wire.
Kusari Gama	A sickle fastened to one end of a piece of rope, cord, chain or wire.
Kyoketsu Shoge	A hook-knife fastened to one end of a piece of rope, cord, chain or wire.
Push Dagger	A knife where the handle fits within a clenched fist and the blade comes out from between two fingers.
Shuriken, ‘shaken’/ death star/‘throwing star’	A hard non-flexible with three or more sharp radiating points, designed to be thrown

Stealth Knife	A knife or spike made of a material that cannot be picked up by metal detectors and which is not made for use at home, for food or as a toy.
Sword	A curved blade of 50 centimetres or over, based on the straight-line distance from the top of the handle to the tip of the blade.
Swordstick	A hollow walking stick or cane containing a blade which may be used as a sword.
Telescopic Truncheon	A truncheon that extends automatically by pressing a button, a spring or other device that's in or attached to the handle.
Zombie Knife	A knife with a cutting edge, a serrated edge and images or words suggesting it is used for violence.

Katrina Fitzgerald – May 2026

Approved by Health, Safety & Safeguarding Committee