

Community Relations

Law Enforcement Agencies

The Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible for students during school hours or at school sponsored events. The Trustees' number one priority is the safety of the students, staff, and visitors.

This responsibility includes protecting each student's constitutional rights, assuring due process in questioning and arrest, protecting students from any form of illegal coercion, and keeping students safe from physical and emotional harm. Due to the many support services that local law enforcement agencies provide to the schools, staff, and students, the State of Connecticut supports the best possible relationship with those agencies consistent with The Academy's responsibilities to protect legal rights of staff and students.

Law enforcement officials are viewed as key community stakeholders in the overall management of The Academy, including the development and implementation of a comprehensive emergency readiness plan for The Academy.

This policy is intended to balance the needs of The Academy and law enforcement officials. The reduction of ambiguity and confusion in how these officials interact will provide an optimal environment for education while ensuring that the public safety needs of the school and community are adequately met. Priority shall be given to the involvement of law enforcement in threat assessments and in the planning and implementation of school district emergency plans, security procedures, and crisis response. The Head of School or his/her designee shall establish lines of communication with local law enforcement agencies for the security of Academy facilities, safety of students and staff, and for the better education of students concerning law enforcement agencies.

Generally, police should be notified immediately of any crime. Police shall make every attempt to minimize distractions or disruption of school routines during the performance of their duties. There may be instances where the transgression is so slight that the school administration can resolve the issue independently.

Interviewing of Students

Police interviews should not take place on Academy grounds. However, if the police do indicate that an interview on Academy grounds is necessary, school authorities shall cooperate. The school administration shall work with the police to try and have the interview not occur during instructional time. When the interview involves a juvenile, a parent/guardian must be notified and allowed to be present. The exceptions to this rule are (a) if the student is being interviewed as a victim and/or (b) if there is an overriding immediate public safety concern. If a juvenile student and the parent/guardian cannot be present, a member of the school staff should be present.

When police are investigating possible criminal acts that have occurred, or may have occurred on Academy property, or while under the jurisdiction of the school district, they may question students at school when the following procedures are observed:

- Students will be questioned as confidentially and inconspicuously as possible; and
- An attempt will be made to notify the student's parents so that they may be present during the questioning. The Associate Head of School, or his/her designee, will be present. The administrator shall maintain a written record of all such interviews conducted.

Police will make every attempt to minimize distractions or disruption of Academy routines during the performance of their duties.

Arrest of Students

The decision to call police and request an arrest is within the discretion of the Head of School or his/her designee. The Head of School or his/her designee may request the arrest of a student, or there may be times in which the police may request to

pick up a student due to a warrant being issued for his/her arrest. The student should be escorted from class by school personnel and remain in a secured office until the police arrive. When possible, the arrested student will be removed from the school in a way that minimizes any disruption of The Academy routine.

If a student is arrested on campus, the Head of School should notify the Board of Trustees President and Vice-President immediately.

Weapons

If a dangerous weapon and/or ammunition are found during the course of an investigation, it should be turned over to the police immediately by the school official. The Head of School or his/her designee may retain weapons that are not illegal but are a violation of school policy.

Notification of a Student's Arrest

Pursuant to the requirements of C.G.S. 10-233h, as amended by Public Act 94-221, Public Act 95-304 and Public Act 97-149, whenever the Head of School or his/her designee receives oral notification followed by written notification from a local police department or the state police that a student was arrested for a Class A misdemeanor, a felony, or for selling, carrying, or brandishing a facsimile firearm, he/she shall maintain the written report in a secure location and the information in the report shall be maintained as confidential in accordance with Section 46b-124. This information may lead the Academy to level consequences, up to and including expulsion.

Policy Adopted: August 25, 1992

Policy Updated: June 17, 2014

Policy Reviewed by the Policy Committee: September 11, 2019

The Woodstock Academy

Woodstock, Connecticut