

64834 Knife-Related Incidents in Educational Settings

I would like to request the following information:

Data on knife-related incidents in educational settings that were reported to or recorded by your local authority. For the purposes of this request, relevant settings include state-funded primary schools, state-funded secondary schools, special schools, sixth form colleges, further education colleges, and others.

I recognise that your authority may hold this information via several routes, including safeguarding referrals from settings, Youth Justice Service notifications, and direct reports to the LA's designated safeguarding officer. Please include data from all such routes where available and note the source in your response. Please also indicate at the end of your response how many settings in your local authority area are academies, free schools or independent providers not subject to maintained reporting requirements, as this will help understand the coverage of your data.

I am requesting this data for calendar years 2021 to 2025 inclusive, plus 2026 year to date where available.

I would like to request this data on a spreadsheet in the following format:

Q1. I would like to know the total number of knife-related incidents reported to or recorded by your authority, broken down by calendar year and by type of incident, using the following categories where possible:

- possession of a knife or bladed article with no injury or threat;
- a threat made with a knife or bladed article;
- an assault with a knife or bladed article resulting in no injury;
- an assault resulting in injury;
- an assault resulting in serious injury;
- any other knife-related incident;
- and type of incident not recorded.

We are unable to provide the information requested because it is not held by the Council.

There is no requirement for us to identify the type of weapon used in incidents, therefore we are not able to identify which incidents involved a knife specifically, or another type of weapon. Further explanation is provided in previous FOI response which are published on our Disclosure Log at:

<https://edinburgh.axlr8.uk/disclose/>

For instance, 49061 and 53017.

Incident reporting data is also published on our Disclosure Log through the link provided above. In the Search field, please refer to requests: 52798; 58116; 60199; 63212; 64513.

For the current session, which began on 12 August 2026, we have had 7 incidents involving weapons so far.

2026/27 to Date	Primary	Secondary	Total
Possession of a weapon – no threat		1-5*	1-5
Threat was made with the weapon	1-5	1-5	1-5
Total	1-5	1-5	7

*Where there are five or fewer reports in group, these are shown as '1-5' in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

I would also like, where your authority records or can identify the type of setting at which each incident occurred, a breakdown by setting type:

state-funded primary schools, state-funded secondary schools, special schools, sixth form colleges, further education colleges, and setting type unknown or not recorded.

The Education Dept of The City of Edinburgh Council are only able to provide this information for our state funded Primary, Secondary and Special Schools.

The responses above state whether the incidents happened in one of our Primary, Secondary or Special Schools.

I would additionally like to know the exclusion outcome for the pupil or pupils involved in each incident, broken down as follows:

- fixed-term suspension (with number of days where available);
- permanent exclusion;
- no exclusion with a managed move to another setting;
- no exclusion with another intervention (please specify where possible);
- no exclusion recorded;
- and outcome not known to the local authority.

Where a single incident resulted in multiple pupils being excluded, please count each pupil separately.

Please refer to previous requests, 64584 and 54833 published on our Disclosure Log.

We are unable to provide the exclusion outcome you have requested as the cost to the Council of locating, retrieving and providing you with the information far exceeds the statutory maximum of £600.

Finally, to understand whether incidents are concentrated in a small number of settings or spread more broadly, I would like an anonymous frequency distribution showing how many settings recorded 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 or more incidents over the full period covered by this request (with 5 or more further broken down into 5–9, 10–19, and 20+ where possible).

Please refer to previous request, 63212, published on our Disclosure Log.

Please note our process requires schools to contact the Police if an offensive weapon is brought to school/used in an incident in school. Please also note that this level of detail is not available prior to 2023/24.