

Shirebrook Academy

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3rd February 2026

Safeguarding – prohibited items that are not permitted on Shirebrook Academy’s site

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to you to inform and ask for your support in ensuring that your child does not bring to the academy a ‘Butterfly Comb’. These can also be fashioned in the shape of a knife and referred to as a ‘Butterfly Knife Comb’.

Butterfly combs are used for hairdressing and barber training and unfold in the style of a bladed item, but they are a harmless, unsharpened comb. Concerns arise when these items are seen by young people who believe them to be knives and where threats may be made linked to them and the suggestion that they can be used for harm.

In order to ensure student safety and prevent incidents where young people and adults can become concerned about their appearance and feel unsafe, we are insisting that students do not bring these items onto the academy site. Some students have also reported that the combs are used to ‘practice tricks’ but again, we are insisting that students do not bring or use them on our academy site. Butterfly combs are being added to our prohibited items that are not permitted.

If you have any questions regarding any aspects of this letter, please do not hesitate to let us know - enquiries@shirebrookacademy.org.

Thank you for your continued support and working with us to help keep children and our academy community safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lindsey Burgin
Principal

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