

Bury Council – 3D Printer Safety & Supervision Information Sheet



**Ensuring Safe and Responsible Use of 3D Printing
Equipment in Educational and Community Settings**

Introduction

Bury Council are committed to promoting innovation in education while ensuring safety and legal responsibility are upheld.

As 3D printing technology becomes more accessible, it's essential that clear safeguards are in place to prevent misuse and protect all users

This guidance outlines key safety measures, supervision requirements, and legal responsibilities to ensure all use within schools and youth settings is secure and appropriate.



Access & Supervision

To ensure the safe use of 3D printing equipment, the following measures should be in place at all times:

- **Supervised Use Only:** 3D printers should be operated under the direct supervision of trained staff at all times.
- **Photo ID Required:** All students or users should present valid photo identification prior to using the equipment.
- **Sign In / Sign Out Process:** Users should sign in before starting and sign out after completing their session. A register should be maintained.
- **Staff Authorisation Required:** Only authorised staff may initiate, approve, or monitor print jobs.



Content Restrictions

To prevent misuse, restrictions on printable items should be in place:

- **Prohibited Items:** The printing of weapons, including knives, blunt force weapons, firearms and firearm components, or any item that could be used to cause harm is strictly forbidden.
- **File Review:** All print files should be pre-approved by staff before printing.
- **Material Checks:** Only approved and safe printing materials may be used.



Educational Awareness

It is important that both staff and students are aware of the implications and responsibilities of 3D printing. The following resources provide insight:



Understanding 3D Printing

What Is 3D Printing and How Does It Work?

Video by [Mashable Explains](#)

An overview of the technology behind 3D printing – ideal for those new to the process.



Legal & Policy Context

- 3D printed firearms are covered by existing firearms legislation and treated like any other illegally manufactured firearm.
- The maximum penalty for manufacturing or distributing a prohibited weapon is life imprisonment.
- Possession of a prohibited weapon, including a 3D printed firearm, carries a maximum penalty of 10 years, with a minimum of 5 years.
- The Government is legislating to criminalise the importation, creation, adaptation, supply, and possession of templates for 3D printed firearms via the Border Security, Asylum, and Immigration Bill.



Summary of Checklist Measures

Recommendation	Checklist
Supervised at all times	✓
Photo ID required	✓
Sign-in/out log	✓
Restricted content filtering	✓
Approved files only	✓
Awareness of legal implications	✓

**For more information, please contact
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