

# No knives at school

NSW Department of Education and Training



## There's no good reason to bring a knife to school.

NSW now has the toughest knife laws in Australia. As a parent, you need to be aware of these laws, as you can also be charged if you allow your child to carry a knife.

## No knives allowed at school under any circumstances.

- If a student has a knife at school the principal may call the police.
- The student may be expelled or suspended immediately. Possessing a knife includes your child simply having one in their bag or locker. Having a knife for self-protection is also illegal. If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or safety, contact the principal.
- Tough penalties apply for children convicted of knife offences, including jail sentences of up to 25 years if someone is injured with a knife during an assault.

## What kind of knives are prohibited?

School policy is designed to keep all students safe, and so no type of knife is allowed at school. That means no butter knives or fruit knives in lunchboxes, or knife tools for craft purposes.

- Flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives, star knives are all prohibited.
- Your child cannot bring to school any item that can be used as a weapon (such as a chisel).
- In lessons requiring the use of knives, for example cooking or trades, your child's teacher will supply and supervise the use of the tools.
- There are some senior subjects, such as hospitality, where children may be required to have their own knives. Your child's school will advise you about these courses and the procedures for carrying knives legally to and from school and TAFE.

## The law makes parents responsible

You need to make certain your child is aware of the school's rules and the State laws about knives.

If you allow your child to carry or possess a knife at school or in a public place, you can be charged.

- The police can search any child they suspect of having a knife. They can confiscate any dangerous object they might find during the search.
- Your child must comply with such a police search, or they may be arrested and charged.
- It is also illegal for anyone to sell a knife to anyone who is less than 16 years old.

Every child has the right to feel safe and secure at school. There is no good reason for them to ever have a knife at school.

If you want to talk about children and knives at school, please contact the principal.

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## There's no good reason to bring a knife to school.

It's against the law for students to have a knife in a public place or at school.

NSW now has the toughest knife laws in Australia and you need to be aware of these laws.

## No knives are allowed at school under any circumstances.

- You are not allowed to have any type of knife at school, including flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives, star knives or any item that can be used as a weapon, for example a chisel.
- Your principal may call the police and you may be expelled or suspended from school immediately if you are found possessing or carrying a knife.

- You can now receive a fine of over \$2,000 or be sent to jail for many years for knife related offences.
- This may happen even if you just have it at school in your bag or locker, and don't use the knife, or threaten anyone with it.
- You are not allowed to carry a knife, even if you believe it is for your own protection. If you feel intimidated, worried that someone will harm you or you're being bullied, talk to your school principal, counsellor or year advisor.

## Keeping schools safe.

The police can search you in public places and at school if they suspect you possess a knife. They can confiscate any dangerous object they might find during the search.

- If police tell you they are going to search you because they suspect you of having a knife at school, you must comply.

- If you do not cooperate with the police, they can arrest and charge you.
- It is also illegal for anyone to sell you a knife if you are under 16 years old.

## Tough penalties apply.

There are very tough sentences for assaults or threats that involve a knife, for example if you are in a fight and wound someone with a knife. If you commit this sort of crime with other young people, the sentences are even tougher. In some cases the jail term can be for 14 to 25 years. Your parents can be charged if they know and allow you to carry a knife in public places or at school.

There's no good reason for you to ever bring a knife to school.