

No knives at school – parent factsheet

Health and Safety Directorate



There is 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 gaol sentences of up to 25 years if someone is injured with a knife during an assault.

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

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

What kind of knives are prohibited?

As school policy is designed to keep all students safe, 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 and 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.

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