WORKING TO KEEP WOREE SAFE
POLICY

VERSION 2
Working to Keep Woree Safe Policy

Rationale

Woree State High School aims to ensure a safe teaching and learning environment for staff, students and the community. Items that are not to be brought to school include any item that may be considered a weapon including a knife, shank, lighter, firearm, etc.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to clearly outline the procedures that staff at Woree State High School are to follow in event of unsafe student practices.

Relevance to Related Legislation and DETE Policy

LEGISLATION

- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
- Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006

RELEVANT POLICY

- SMS-PR-021: Safe, Supportive and Disciplined School Environment

Operation of the Policy

We can work together to keep weapons out of school. At Woree State High School:

- Every student has the right to feel safe and be safe at school.
- No weapons including a knife, shank, lighter, firearm, etc are allowed to be taken to school by students.
- There is no reason for a student to have a weapon including a knife, shank, lighter, firearm, etc at school, and it is against the law for a student to have a weapon at school.

If a student has a weapon including a knife, shank, lighter, firearm, etc at school, they can expect serious consequences, such as fines and possibly jail. Longer jail sentences can be given to young people if someone is injured with a knife during an assault.

What kinds of knives are banned?

- No knives of any type are allowed at school, including flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives, star knives, butter knives, fruit knives or craft knives, or any item that can be used as a weapon, for example a chisel.
- Knives needed for school activities will be provided by the school, and the use of them will be supervised by school staff.
- In circumstances where students are required to have their own knives or sharp tools for particular subjects or vocational courses, the school will provide information about the procedures for carrying and storing these items at school. School Executive Team can take tough action against a student who brings a knife to school.
- If a student has a knife at school, Principals can inform the police.
- Possessing a knife at school may result in serious disciplinary consequences including suspension or exclusion.
- Police can search a student and their property at school if they suspect a student has a knife.
- A student may be charged with a criminal offence and may face serious consequences if convicted, including a fine or jail.
- School property such as desks or lockers may be searched if the principal suspects that a student has a knife on or in school property.
- If the Principal suspects the student has a knife in their bag, the bag may be temporarily confiscated until police arrive.
- If the student does have a knife at school, it can be confiscated by the principal and given to the police.

How can parents help to keep Woree State High School safe?
- Make sure your child knows what the laws and rules are about weapons including a knife, shank, lighter, firearm, etc.
- Do not include knives or knife tools in children's lunch boxes, pencil cases or craft kits.
- Contact your school Principal if you believe your child is being bullied or threatened at school.
- If you want to talk about students and knives at school, please contact school Executive Team

**Documentation**

a) 2016-2019 Woree State High School Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students
“Accept the opportunity of a lifetime at a great Cairns school where “every student counts”"