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: Statement of expectations for a disciplined school environment policy
- Safe, Supportive and Disciplined School Environment
- https://education.qld.gov.au
- SMS-PR012: Student Protection
- SMC-PR-006: Hostile People on School Premises, Willful Disturbance and Trespass
- GVR-PR-001: Police and Child Safety Officer Interviews with Students, and Police Searches at State Educational Institutions

Operation of the Policy

We can work together to keep weapons out of school. At Woree State High School, every student and staff member has the right to feel safe and be safe at school.

A weapon can be best described as “a thing designed or used for inflicting bodily harm or physical damage”.

There is no reason for a student to have a weapon in their possession (including a knife, shank, lighter, firearm, sticks, scissors, etc) at school, and it is against the law for a student to have a weapon at school.

If a student has in their possession what is deemed a weapon 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.

If a student has a weapon at school, the Principal:
- Can inform the Police
- May choose serious disciplinary consequences including suspension or exclusion for the student
- Can confiscate the weapon until the Police arrive

The Police:
- Can search a student and their property at school if they suspect a student has a weapon
- May charge the student with a criminal offence and the student may face serious consequences if convicted, including a fine or jail
If the Principal suspects that a student has possession of a weapon,

- School property such as desks or cupboards may be searched if the Principal suspects that a student has a weapon on or in school property.
- The student bag may be temporarily confiscated until the Police arrive.

**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, 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 Head of Department Curriculum area and class teachers will provide information about the procedures for carrying and storing these items at school.

**How can parents/carers 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 Executive Team 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**

- 2019-2022 Woree State High School Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students
Accept the opportunity of a lifetime at a great Cairns school where “every student counts.”