



Our Lady of the Way Primary School
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WEAPONS AT SCHOOL POLICY

1.0 Rationale

Our Lady of the Way School is committed to the safety of all students and staff. A critical aspect of this is ensuring that prohibited weapons are not present on the school site to minimise risk to staff and students.

2.0 Definition

A prohibited weapon includes but is not limited to – all knives, with the exception of those knives required for school lessons and provided by the school under staff supervision; guns; darts; batons; machetes; other weapons listed in *Schedule One of the Weapons Prohibition Act 1998 NSW*; any other object that can be used to cause serious injury or harm; and any implements that may have been altered and could be used as a weapon to cause serious injury or harm.

3.0 Implementation

- 3.1 In case a student, parents, staff or visitor brings a prohibited weapon to school, the principal or delegate must notify the police immediately and ensure reasonable steps are taken to protect students and staff from risk.
- 3.2 If there is reasonable belief that a student is in possession of a harmful or prohibited weapon and there is a risk of immediate danger to the safety and welfare of the students and staff, the principal can request to search their bag and possessions. If the student refuses the request, the police should be called so they can conduct the search.
- 3.3 Where practicable, any search of a student's bag or possessions should be undertaken in a private setting away from other students and with an independent observer such as a member of staff, present.
- 3.4 Under no circumstances should staff carry out a physical search of a student.
- 3.5 Any member of staff must inform the principal or delegate if they are aware that a prohibited weapon has been brought on site.
- 3.6 Students who bring prohibited weapons to school will be subject to the Suspension, Transfer and Exclusion procedures.

3.7 The principal can immediately suspend the student for up to 5 days if they are in possession of a prohibited weapon, in line with CEDP policies and procedures. Principals must seek approval from the Director of Performance to suspend a student for more than 5 days.

4.0 Evaluation

The Principal, with delegated responsibility to the Leadership Team will be responsible for the planning, implementation and review of this program.