

## WEAPONS POLICY

We can work together to keep weapons out of school. At Highfields State Secondary College, every student has the right to feel safe and be safe at school. As a result no weapons are allowed to be brought to school by students. There is no reason for a student to have a weapon at school, and it is against the law for a student to have a weapon at school.

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

What kinds of weapons are banned?

- No weapons of any type are allowed at school, including firearms, grenades, martial art weapons, combat weapons, flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives, star knives butter knives, fruit knives or craft knives or any other item that can be used as a weapon.
- Any dangerous apparatus needed for school activities will be provided by the school, and the use of them will be supervised by school staff.
- In circumstance 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.

The Principal can take action against a student who brings a weapon to school.

- If a student has weapon at school, the Principal can inform the police
- Possessing a weapon at school may result in suspension or exclusion
- Police can search a student and their property at school if they suspect a student has a weapon
- 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 weapon 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 weapon at school, it can be confiscated by the Principal and given to the police

How can parents/guardians help to keep out school safe?

- Make sure your child knows what the laws and rules about weapons are
- Check that your child does not carry a weapons on their person or in their bag
- Contact the Principal if you believe your child is being bullied or threatened at school