



SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE BRISBANE CATHOLIC EDUCATION SCHOOLS

PARENT FACT SHEET

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE

We can work together to keep our school safe.

We believe that authentic Catholic schools are founded on the person of Jesus Christ and enlivened by the Gospel; we are committed to Catholic Schools which embrace the vision of Jesus and the teaching of the Gospel.

In Brisbane Catholic Education schools:

- Every student has the right to feel safe and be safe at school.
- No weapons are allowed to be taken 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 knife at school.

As a parent, you need to be aware of the laws in Queensland regarding the possession, use or distribution of weapons in schools. *The Weapons Act 1990* states that "*it is an offence to possess a knife in a public place or school without reasonable excuse*"- s51 (1). Possession of a knife or other weapon for protection or self-defense is not a reasonable excuse. If a student has a knife at school, there may be serious consequences including legal and school disciplinary consequences.

What kinds of knives are banned?

No knives of any type are allowed at school.

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 tools for particular subjects or vocational courses, the school will provide information about the procedures for carrying and storing these items at school.

School staff can take appropriate action against a student who brings a knife to school.

- If a student has a knife at school, school staff can inform the police.
- Possessing a knife at school may result in serious disciplinary consequences.
- 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.
- 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 our school safe?

- Make sure your child knows what the laws and rules are about weapons and knives.
- Do not include knives of any kind or tools in children's lunch boxes, pencil cases or craft kits.
- Contact your school principal if you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or safety.
- If you want to talk about students and weapons at school, please contact the school.

Adapted from QSSAV Fact Sheet