

No knives at school

Student Fact Sheet

SAFETY AND SECURITY DIRECTORATE

There is no good reason to bring a knife to school.

It's against the law for students to have a knife in a public place or at school. NSW now has the toughest knife laws in Australia and you need to be aware of these laws.

No knives allowed at school under any circumstances.

- You are not allowed to have any type of knife at school, including flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives, star knives or any item that can be used as a weapon (such as a chisel).
- Your principal may call the police and you may be expelled or suspended from school immediately if you are found possessing or carrying a knife.
- You can now receive a fine of over \$2,000 or be sent to gaol for many years for knife related offences.
- This may happen even if you just have it at school in your bag or locker, and don't use the knife, or threaten anyone with it.
- You are not allowed to carry a knife, even if you believe it is for your own protection. If you feel intimidated, worried that someone will harm you or you're being bullied, talk to your school principal, counsellor or year advisor.
- If you do not cooperate with the police, they can arrest and charge you.
- It is also illegal for anyone to sell you a knife if you are under 16 years old.

Tough penalties apply

There are very tough sentences for assaults or threats that involve a knife; for example, if you are in a fight and wound someone with a knife.

If you commit this sort of crime with other young people, the sentences are even tougher. In some cases the gaol term can be for 14 to 25 years. Your parents can be charged if they know and allow you to carry a knife in public places or at school.

There is no good reason for you to ever bring a knife to school.

Keeping schools safe

The police can search you in public places and at school if they suspect you possess a knife. They can confiscate any dangerous object they might find during the search.

If police tell you they are going to search you because they suspect you of having a knife at school, you must comply.