



ALAWA PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEAPONS IN SCHOOL POLICY

TITLE OF POLICY: WEAPONS IN SCHOOL POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 2025

REVIEW DATE: 2027

TARGET AUDIENCE: All staff (including relief and volunteers), students, parents and carers, visitors, contractors and external facility users (including OSHC)

1. POLICY

Alawa Primary School is committed to providing a safe, supportive and respectful learning environment for all students, staff, families and visitors. The possession, use, display, or threat of weapons on school grounds, on transport arranged by the school, or at any school-related activity is not tolerated. Breaches may result in suspension, expulsion and/or referral to NT Police.

Safety is a shared responsibility. We work with families, community members and NT Police to keep our school safe so every child can learn and thrive.

2. PURPOSE

This policy enables Alawa Primary School to:

- Make clear that weapons are prohibited.
- Set out consistent procedures for preventing and responding to weapon related incidents.
- Support culturally safe and curriculum-linked practice when items that may be considered “weapons” (e.g., tools in kitchen, farm or cultural artefacts) are required, through risk assessment and controls.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All students, staff, contractors, volunteers, parents/carers and visitors while on school premises or at school activities (on-site or off-site, including excursions and camps)
- External groups using or hiring school facilities
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) operating on school premises.

4. STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES:

4.1. PROHIBITION

- Weapons (controlled or prohibited) and prohibited firearms are not permitted at any time on school premises or at school-related activities.

- Reasonable educational/cultural use of items that could be considered a weapon is only permitted where approved in advance by the Principal and supported by a risk assessment, supervision plan and (where relevant) parent/carer consent. Items must be secured when not in use.
- Possessing, carrying or using any item as a ‘self-defence’ weapon is not permitted (including sprays, stun devices, batons or similar).

4.2 SEARCHES (PROPERTY ONLY)

With consent: The Principal (or delegate) may request a student to consent to a search of their property (e.g., bag, locker) and to empty pockets. A witness must be present.

- Parent involvement: If a student refuses, the Principal will inform the parent/carer and seek consent to search the student’s property.
- Recording: Consent, actions taken and outcomes must be recorded in Xuno.
- Without consent: If consent is not provided and there is reasonable suspicion that a weapon is concealed, the Principal must contact NT Police (000 for emergencies; otherwise 13 14 44).
- Personal searches: Only NT Police may conduct a personal search without a warrant. School staff must not conduct personal searches.

Delegation: Where there is reasonable suspicion and the Principal is off-site (or the student is off-site, e.g., on excursion), the Principal may verbally or in writing authorise a teacher to request consent and search property (not the person). A witness must be present.

4.3 IF A WEAPON IS LOCATED OR HANDED IN

- Immediate safety: Isolate the area, keep students away and follow the school emergency plan if required.
- If safe to do so, the Principal (or delegate) secures the item in a locked location. Do not handle more than necessary.
- NT Police must be contacted to collect prohibited weapons or firearms.
- Parent/carer notification: The parent/carer of the student concerned must be informed as soon as practicable.
- Evidence: Do not test, display, or photograph items beyond what is required for safety and documentation.

4.4 DISPOSING/RETURNING ITEMS

- Prohibited weapons or firearms: Held securely and handed to NT Police only.
- Controlled weapons or items misused as weapons: The Principal decides disposal with regard to: nature of threat, type of item, likelihood of harm, age/independence of the student and circumstances. The item may be returned to the parent/carer at a suitable time if safe and lawful to do so, or disposed of as directed by NT Police.
- Unknown owner: Take reasonable steps to identify the owner; if unresolved, follow NT Police advice or dispose at the Principal’s discretion in line with legislation.
- All actions and decisions must be documented in Xuno.

4.5 EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL USE OF ITEMS

Prior to any lesson or event involving tools/artefacts that could be considered weapons (e.g., hospitality knives, trade tools, cultural ceremonial items):

- complete a risk assessment (controls for storage, transport, supervision, count-in/count-out and exclusion when not required)
 - confirm parent/carer consent where appropriate (particularly for cultural items)
 - ensure secure storage before and after use
 - provide direct supervision by competent staff.
- Misuse or non-compliance results in immediate removal of the item and potential disciplinary action.

4.6 INCIDENT RESPONSE (AT-A-GLANCE)

1. Ensure immediate safety; enact emergency plan if required.
2. Separate involved students and secure area.
3. Contact NT Police (000 emergency; 13 14 44 otherwise) where there is reasonable suspicion, a located weapon, or risk.
4. Notify parents/carers and the Senior Director Education or Regional Director School Operations as soon as practicable; follow DET critical incident reporting.
5. Record in Xuno (facts only), including any search consent, actions, contacts and outcomes.
6. Arrange student support, re-entry planning and any disciplinary action in line with DET policy.

4.7 HIGH-RISK AREAS — KITCHEN AND STAFF ROOM

The school recognises that the staff room, kitchen, storerooms and other service areas contain knives, sharp implements and tools that could be misused as weapons if accessed by students. These areas are designated **high-risk areas** and must be secured and managed to prevent unauthorised access.

Students are prohibited from entering these areas unless directly supervised by a staff member for an approved learning activity.

To minimise risk, the following controls apply:

- **Secure storage:** All knives, sharp tools and hazardous implements must be stored in locked cupboards or containers when not in use. Keys or codes are held only by authorised staff.
- **Access control:** Staff room and storeroom doors remain locked when unsupervised. Student entry is permitted only under direct staff supervision.
- **Supervision:** Any lesson or activity involving knives or sharp tools must be run by a competent staff member, with at least two staff present where possible.
- **Staff responsibility:** Staff must not leave personal knives, scissors or tools unattended in communal areas and must secure personal items.
- **Training:** Expectations for safe storage, supervision and incident reporting are included in staff induction and annual refresher training.
- **Environmental controls:** Where appropriate, use lockable covers, tamper-evident seals or secure tool boxes for blades and implements.
- **Curriculum planning:** For lessons requiring knives or tools (e.g., hospitality, gardening, trades), a risk assessment must be completed, age-appropriate equipment used and parent/carer information provided where relevant.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Principal:

- Establish and communicate school procedures consistent with this policy and NT DET guidelines.
- Ensure risk assessments and controls for curriculum/cultural item use.
- Lead or delegate property searches with consent; never conduct personal searches.
- Contact NT Police as required and notify Senior Director Education/Regional Director School Operations per critical incident processes.
- Ensure records (including consent and outcomes) are kept in Xuno.
- Notify Quality Education and Care NT (QECNT) if the incident involved a regulated service (e.g., preschool/OSHC on site).
- Lead post-incident debriefing, student re-entry and communication.

All staff:

- Prioritise safety; follow the emergency management plan.
- Immediately report suspected weapon possession or threats to the Principal.
- Supervise and secure curriculum/cultural items as per risk controls.

Parents/carers:

- Model safe behaviour; ensure children do not bring weapons or items that could be used as weapons to school or activities.
- Participate in debriefing/re-entry processes where relevant.
- Advise the school in advance if a student needs to bring a cultural artefact or an item for curriculum purposes; comply with conditions set by the school and DET Codes of Conduct.

Students:

- Follow the school's Code of Conduct.
- Do not possess or use weapons or misuse items as weapons.
- Immediately inform a staff member if they find or become aware of a weapon at school or a school activity.

School Operations (Department of Education):

- Provide guidance and reminders regarding the annual exemption ballot
- Maintain a register of all schools with or without designated smoking areas

6. RELATED POLICY, LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

- *Anti-Discrimination Act 1992* – <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/ANTIDISCRIMINATION-ACT-1992>
- *Criminal Code Act 1983* – <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/CRIMINAL-CODE-ACT-1983>
- *Education Act 2015* – <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/EDUCATION-ACT-2015>

- *Education and Care Services (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* – <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/EDUCATION-AND-CARE-SERVICES-NATIONAL-UNIFORM-LEGISLATION-ACT-2011>
- *Firearms Act 1997* – <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/FIREARMS-ACT-1997>
- *Trespass Act 2023* – <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/TRESPASS-ACT-2023>
- *Weapons Control Act 2001* – <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/WEAPONS-CONTROL-ACT-2001>
- *Weapons Control Regulations 2001* – <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/WEAPONS-CONTROL-REGULATIONS-2001>
- *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* – <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/WORK-HEALTH-AND-SAFETY-NATIONAL-UNIFORM-LEGISLATION-ACT-2011>
- *Youth Justice Act 2005* – <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/YOUTH-JUSTICE-ACT-2005>

Policy/Guidelines (DET Internal)

- Behaviour and wellbeing: detention, suspension and expulsion – <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/health-safety/behaviour-and-wellbeing>
- Codes of conduct for education sites and workplace participants policy and procedures – https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/conduct#codes_of_conduct_for_education_sites_and_workplace_participants
- Student wellbeing and positive behaviour policy – <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/health-safety/behaviour-and-wellbeing>

7. RECORDS, REPORTING AND PRIVACY

- All searches (consented or refused), contacts with parents/carers, NT Police notifications/attendance, items located, actions taken and outcomes must be recorded in **Xuno** the same day where possible.
- Critical incidents are reported through regional processes and the incident register (newsflash if required).
- Records are handled per privacy and records management requirements.

8. COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

- Included in staff induction and handbook.
- Promoted via parent handbook, newsletters and the school website.
- Incorporated into facility hire agreements and OSHC service agreements.
- Language/accessibility needs are considered (plain English and translations as required).
- Annual staff refresher on procedures, risk controls for curriculum/cultural items, and incident response.

9. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Reasonable suspicion	When a decision is made based on the belief that something is possible. In relation to searching of students, a principal must form a reasonable suspicion that a search will uncover weapons and that the search can be conducted in a manner that does not unduly threaten the safety of themselves, students or other school staff. Consideration must also be made as to whether it is likely that the weapon will be used by a student and the source and veracity of information regarding the presence of a weapon.
Weapon	An object or instrument designed or used for inflicting bodily harm or physical damage. All weapons that are controlled or prohibited are listed in section 7 of this document: 7.1 Schedule 1 – Controlled weapons – Weapons Control Regulations 2001 7.2 Schedule 2 – Prohibited weapons – Weapons Control Regulations 2001 7.3 Schedule 1 - Prohibited firearms – <i>Firearms Act 1997</i>. Items carried or claimed for ‘self-defence’ are considered weapons for the purpose of this policy. An item carried by a student for ceremonial religious, cultural reasons or lessons may be considered as a weapon for the purpose of these guidelines where a student utilises it as such.

10. REFERENCES:

- Management of weapon related incidents in schools procedure – <https://elearn.ntschoools.net/policies/3832>
- Charter for schools, parents, carers and families – https://education.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/946791/parent-engagement-charter.pdf
- Police in NT Government schools – <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/health-safety/police-in-nt-government-schools>

- Quality Education and Care NT (QECNT) – <https://education.nt.gov.au/committees,-regulators-and-advisory-groups/quality-education-and-care-nt>
- Safe Schools NT – Code of behaviour – [Let's keep school safe for everyone | Department of Education Trespass on school grounds - information for visitors – https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/school-operations#trespass_on_school](https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/school-operations#trespass_on_school)

11. CONTROLLED WEAPONS AND PROHIBITED WEAPONS AND FIREARMS LIST

Schedule 1 – Controlled Weapons – Weapons Control Regulations 2001

1. A crossbow, being a type of bow fixed transversely on a stock grooved to direct a dart, bolt or arrow (other than a type of crossbow listed as a prohibited weapon in Schedule 2).
2. A spear-gun.
3. A baton or cudgel, being a short stout stick, made of any material, designed as a weapon, including the weapon commonly known as a "police nightstick".
4. A dagger, being a sharp pointed stabbing instrument (other than an oyster knife or an instrument such as a sword or bayonet) ordinarily capable of being concealed on the person and having:
 - (a) a flat blade with cutting edges (whether serrated or not serrated) along the length of both sides; or
 - (b) a needle-like blade, the cross section of which is elliptical or has 3 or more sides.
5. A bayonet, being a thrusting, striking or cutting weapon designed to be attached to a firearm.
6. A sword, being a thrusting, striking or cutting weapon with a long blade having one or 2 cutting edges and a hilt.
7. A cattle prod.
8. A catapult, shanghai, slingshot or hunting sling (other than a catapult, shanghai, slingshot or hunting sling to which item 15 of Schedule 2 relates).
9. A whip with metal lashes.
10. A cat o'nine tails with knotted lashes.
11. A hand-held battery-operated article, commonly known as a "laser pointer", designed or adapted to emit a laser beam with an accessible emission limit of greater than 1mW.
12. An article that consists of a baton or stick constructed in such a way that it can be unscrewed or broken so as to form 2 or more parts joined by chain, rope or cord, including the martial arts weapons known as "Baton-chucks" or "Bo-chucks".
13. A scythe, or sickle-shaped article designed as a weapon, that:
 - (a) has a fixed or folding blade; and
 - (b) may or may not have a chain attached,

and includes the martial arts weapon known as "Kama".

14. An article consisting of a chain, rope or cord with a wooden or metal baton, stick or rod attached at each end, including the martial arts weapons known as "Kasari-Fundo", "Kusari-Fundo" and "Manrikigusari".
15. A stick or rod, of any material, designed as a weapon to be applied to the pressure points of the human body, including the martial arts weapon known as "Kubotan".
16. An article that consists of 2 sticks, rods or batons joined by a cord, rope or chain, including the martial arts weapon known as "Nunchaku".
17. A "Sai" or "Jitte", being a short, tapered, metal rod, dull at the point, with flared metal prongs guarding the handle.
18. An article consisting of a curved blade pointed at both ends with a handle attached to the middle, including the martial arts weapon known as "Suan Ywe Gou".
19. An article consisting of a blade or blades with cord, rope or chain attached for the purpose of enabling the blade to be thrown and retrieved, including the martial arts weapon known as "Shoge", "ninja Kyokeysu-Shoge" or "Kyotetsu Shoge".
20. An article consisting of a handle and an edged blade, joined by chain or a combination of chain and metal pieces or steel rods, designed to be used as a whip, including the martial arts weapon commonly known as "Chinese whip", "whip spear", "7 piece iron chain", "9 piece iron chain", "Bian Tzu Chiang" or "Lien Tzu Chiang".
21. The martial arts weapon known as a "Butterfly Sword".
22. The martial arts weapon known as a "Tonfa".

3.1 [Schedule 2 – Prohibited Weapons – Weapons Control Regulations 2001](#)

1. A "flick knife", being a knife designed or adapted so that the blade is concealed when folded or recessed into the handle and that opens by gravity or centrifugal force or by any pressure applied to a button, spring or device in or attached to the handle of the knife.
2. A "knuckle knife", being an open or exposed blade or similar instrument attached to a handle that is designed or adapted to be held between the knuckles (including the device commonly known as the "Urban Pal Knife").
3. An article that is designed to include a concealed knife or sword blade, including but not limited to:
 - (a) a belt, or similar article, designed or adapted to hold a knife, dagger or similar instrument so that the presence of the knife, dagger or instrument is concealed or disguised as part of the belt or article when it is worn (for example, an article known as the "Bowen Knife Belt");
 - (b) a "swordstick", being a cane, stick or similar article designed or adapted to hold the blade of a sword so that it is concealed from view until withdrawn from the cane, stick or article; and
 - (c) a riding crop designed or adapted to hold a blade or spike so that it is concealed from view until withdrawn from the crop.
4. A "butterfly knife", being a knife with a 2 piece handle that folds together to cover both edges of

the blade (whether the blade is serrated or not serrated).

5. A "double-end knife", being a knife that has the appearance of 2 overlapping curved blades joined together so as to form an ellipse shape.
6. A knife that is designed or adapted so that the blade is concealed by a plastic, wooden or metal sheath that retracts into the handle of the knife by gravity or centrifugal force or by any pressure applied to a button, spring or device in or attached to the handle of the knife (including the knife commonly known as the "Black Eagle Knife").
7. A "push knife" or similar device designed as a weapon that consists of a single-edged or multi-edged blade or spike of any material that has a handle fitted transversely to the blade or spike and allows the blade or spike to be supported by the palm of the hand so that stabbing blows or slashes can be inflicted by a punching or pushing action.
8. A "trench knife" or similar device that consists of a single-edged or multi-edged blade or spike (of any material) fitted with a handle made of a hard substance that can be fitted over the knuckles of the hand of the user to protect the knuckles and increase the effect of a punch or blow.
9. A "throwing blade", being a knife or axe of any material that is designed to be thrown or modified to enable it to be thrown.
10. A "ballistic knife", being a device or instrument designed or adapted to fire or discharge a knife, dagger or similar instrument by mechanical, percussive or explosive means.
11. A "non-metal/ceramic knife", being a knife, blade or spike of which no part is metallic, but not including plastic cutlery.
12. A crossbow that is reasonably capable of being:
 - (a) carried or concealed about the person; and
 - (b) raised and discharged by one hand.
13. A "blow gun", being a blow pipe or similar device or instrument designed to propel an arrow, dart or similar projectile by air expelled from the mouth.
14. A dart designed to be projected from a blow-gun or similar device.
15. A catapult, shanghai, hunting sling or slingshot:
 - (a) designed or adapted to be used with an arm brace that fits or rests on the forearm to support the wrist from the tension of the elastic material used to propel the projectile (whether or not the brace is home-made and including the device commonly known as the "Saunders Falcon Hunting Sling"); or
 - (b) that is manufactured and intended for commercial distribution (including a frame or stock, and a sling, that is marketed or intended for use as a part for a catapult, shanghai, hunting sling or slingshot).
16. A dart projector (for example, an article commonly known as the "Darchery Dartslinger") or any similar device that is manufactured and intended for commercial distribution.

17. An article designed or adapted to discharge oleoresin capsicum spray.
18. An article designed or adapted to emit or discharge an offensive, noxious or irritant liquid, powder, gas or chemical so as to cause disability, incapacity or harm to another person.
19. An article designed or adapted to emit an electric current into a human body for the purposes of incapacitation or injury.
20. An acoustic anti-personnel device that is designed to cause permanent or temporary incapacity or disability or to otherwise physically disorientate a person.
21. A "shark dart" or any other similar device that is designed to expel, on or after contact, any gas or other substance capable of causing bodily harm.
22. An "extendable baton", being a baton designed or adapted so that the length of the baton extends by gravity or centrifugal force or by any pressure applied to a button, spring or device in or attached to the handle of the baton.
23. A "knuckle-duster", being a device or instrument designed or adapted to be worn across a knuckle or knuckles of the hand, finger, fingers or thumb so as to:
 - (a) increase the force or impact of a punch or blow when striking another person with the hand, finger, fingers or thumb; or
 - (b) protect the knuckle or knuckles from injury when striking another person with the hand, finger, fingers or thumb.
24. A "weighted glove", being a glove (including a fingerless glove), or any other similar article, that:
 - (a) is designed or constructed to be used as a weapon; and
 - (b) has weighted material sewn into it to increase the effect of a punch or blow.
25. A "studded glove", being a glove (including a fingerless glove), or any other similar article, that:
 - (a) is designed or constructed to be used as a weapon; and
 - (b) has a number of raised studs or spikes made of a hard substance and positioned over the back of the glove to increase the effect of a punch or blow.
26. A mace or any other similar article capable of causing injury that consists of a club or staff fitted with a flanged or spiked head, other than a ceremonial mace made for and used solely as a symbol of authority on ceremonial occasions.
27. A flail or any other similar article that consists of a staff or handle that has fitted to one end, by any means, a freely swinging striking part that is armed with spikes or studded with any protruding matter.
28. An article designed to be attached to, or worn on the hands or feet, that has claws attached, including the martial arts weapons known as "ninja climbing claws", "ninja hand claws" and "ninja foot claws".
29. A "throwing star", being a sharpened star-shaped article designed for throwing, including the martial arts weapon known as "Surikan", "Suriken" or "Shaken" (including where the throwing star

is attached to a belt-buckle).

30. An imitation firearm.

31. A "WASP injection knife" or any similar device that has a blade from which compressed gas can be expelled.

3.2 [Schedule 1 – Prohibited firearms – *Firearms Act 1997*](#)

1. A machine gun, sub-machine gun or other firearm capable of propelling projectiles in rapid succession during one pressure of the trigger.
2. A self-loading rimfire rifle (including such a firearm described elsewhere in this Schedule).
3. A self-loading centre-fire rifle (including such a firearm described elsewhere in this Schedule).
4. A self-loading or pump action shotgun (including such a firearm described elsewhere in this Schedule).
5. A self-loading centre-fire rifle of a kind that is designed or adapted for military purposes.
6. A self-loading shotgun of a kind that is designed or adapted for military purposes.
7. A firearm that substantially duplicates in appearance (regardless of calibre or manner of operation) a firearm mentioned in item 1, 5 or 6.
8. A shotgun fitted with or designed to be fitted with a drum magazine of the "Striker 12" assault shotgun type or any similar weapon.
9. A firearm to which there is attached an article or device capable of muffling, reducing or stopping the noise created by firing the firearm.
10. A firearm, not being a pistol, fitted with a stock that is specially designed so as to be readily detachable, or to operate on a swivel, folding or telescopic basis.
11. A firearm made up in the form of a stylographic or propelling pen or pencil, capable of being used for the discharge of gas, bullets, shot, dye or pyrotechnic flares.
12. A firearm capable of discharging, in any way:(a) an irritant matter in liquid, powder, gas or chemical form; or(b) a pyrotechnic flare or dye, other than a distress signal device.
13. A firearm that substantially duplicates in appearance a walking stick or walking cane.
14. A cannon or other weapon by whatever name known of a type that will expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and that has a barrel with a bore in excess of 10 gauge.
15. A firearm or part that has a dimension less than the minimum dimension prescribed for the firearm