

**FIREARMS POLICY****OUTCOME STATEMENT**

The School Board is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all workers, students, visitors and contractors by complying with the Arms Act 2020 and the Arms Regulations 1992.

SCOPING

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Arms Act 2020 and Health and Safety at Work Act 2015: A Practical Guide for School Board and School Leaders.

This policy applies to and is to be followed by all members of the school's leadership team, workers, students, contractors, temporary workers, volunteers and visitors.

DELEGATIONS

The Principal is required to ensure robust, clear procedures are in place and adhered to, to safeguard all members of the members of the school community.

EXPECTATIONS and LIMITATIONS

Arms Act 2020 defines unless the context otherwise requires,

airgun includes—

- a) any air rifle; and
- b) any air pistol; and
- c) any weapon from which, by the use of gas or compressed air (and not by force of explosive), any shot, bullet, missile, or other projectile can be discharged

air pistol carbine conversion kit—

- a) means a frame or kit that may be used to convert an air pistol that is designed or adapted to be held and fired with 1 hand into an airgun that may be fired from the shoulder; but
- b) does not include a pistol carbine conversion kit

THE BOARD IS COMMITTED TO:

- Complying with Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019.
- Engaging with the local community and understanding their position on firearms in schools.
- Providing alternative educational opportunities for students who do not have parental consent to be involved with firearms related activities.
- Running regular firearm safety courses for students who participate in small bore and clay bird/target shooting activities or who store firearms at school.
- Requiring at least one staff member to hold a firearms licence, if we store firearms on school grounds.
- Ensuring there are alternative arrangements in place for communicating with parents/caregivers whose first language is not English and/or te reo Māori.
- Completing a risk analysis management plan for each event involving firearms.
- Having our firearms storage unit/armory regularly inspected by NZ Police and as determined by NZ Police District practices.

PROCEDURE:

1. Firearms are only to be brought on to school grounds as outlined in the Ministry of Education guidelines. These include for educational purposes, Defense Force and NZ Police visits, careers days, firearms safety courses, antique auctions, pest control or special events such as ANZAC day.

2. All firearms brought on to school grounds must be unloaded. Their bolts should also be removed.
3. No ammunition shall be brought on to school grounds with firearms. Except for good, proper and lawful reasons such as pest control, EOTC activities, an ANZAC Commemorative event where blanks/ dummies/ inert ammunition may be used.
4. The Principal shall consult with the parent community before any firearms are brought on to school grounds as to whether the programme fits with their values and beliefs.
5. Before firearms are brought on to school grounds a risk analysis management plan shall be completed and made available to parents of children involved in the firearms programme.
6. Outside of the processes outlined above, firearms should only be brought onto school grounds in emergency situations (eg. NZ Police).
7. Firearms on school grounds shall, at all times, be under the control and responsibility of an authorised user who shall also hold an appropriate firearms licence (unless the activity is endorsed by the school and involves board approved student participation.) The Principal or appointed member of staff shall sight the firearms licence of each authorised user bringing firearms on to school grounds.
8. The Principal shall maintain a log of all firearms brought on to school grounds, arrival and departure time, the name and signature of the authorised user and their firearms licence number and expiry date.
9. The authorised user shall comply with the seven firearms safety rules as specified by the NZ Police.
10. These procedures will not need to be followed by the NZ Police or Armed Forces personnel in the event of a security incident where they need to come on to school premises for law enforcement or national security purposes.

STORAGE FOR FIREARMS PROCEDURE:

1. The Principal or other senior member of staff with a current firearms licence is responsible for the security of the firearms storage unit/armory.
2. Firearms storage unit/armory is always locked in accordance with the required standard.
3. The Principal or other senior member of staff will always hold a current firearms licence.
4. The firearms storage unit/armory has been approved by the NZ Police in accordance with the relevant legislation and regular inspections are carried out by local Police.
5. Only firearms possessed by a firearms licence holder are to be in the storage facility
6. All students who have firearms stored at school must follow these steps:
7. Participate in regular safety training.
8. The firearm must be in a clearly named and proper firearms case and always stored in the firearms storage unit/armory.
9. No ammunition can be stored directly with the firearm at any location within school grounds.
10. Students must never have any live ammunition on their person or in their possession unless they are participating in a school endorsed activity.
11. A firearm can only be moved from the firearms storage unit/armory with an adult present. The adult must be a staff member and hold a firearms licence.

Note: Even if a student holds a firearms licence they must not remove a firearm from the storage unit/ armory, unless a licensed adult is present. The Principal shall maintain a log of all firearms brought on to school grounds, the time they entered school grounds and the time they left, the name and signature of the authorised user and their firearms licence number.

FIREARMS LOG

1. The Principal shall maintain a log of all firearms brought on to school grounds, the time they entered school grounds and the time they left, the name and signature of the authorised user and their firearms licence number.
2. All persons bringing firearms onto Wesley College must sign the register with the Principal or Deputy Principal. By registering you acknowledge the health and safety practices of (our school) and:
 - your firearm is unloaded

- you are not carrying any ammunition except for good, proper and lawful reasons such as pest control, EOTC activities, a Anzac Commemorative event where blanks/ dummies/ inert ammunition may be used.
- you hold a current firearms licence and agree to meet all requirements of the Arms Act 2020.

Note: This only applies to firearms on school premises which will be removed from a vehicle. Firearms are not to be left in a vehicle that is unattended as per Regulation 19(2)(c) Arms Regulations 1992.

LEGISLATION

Arms Act 2020

Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019

Arms Regulations 1992

Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed every three years or more regularly by agreement.

The provisions of this agreement may be varied by the Board following consultation with workers.

The Wesley College School Board approved this Policy August 2024.

This policy will be reviewed on / before the August meeting 2027.

PRESIDING MEMBER

22 August 2024

DATE