

502.1.8 Weapons

1. For the purpose of this procedure, a “weapon” is defined as any object which is either designed, intended, or used to intimidate, to threaten or to inflict bodily harm on a person and includes an object which imitates a weapon. Imitation weapons authorized for use by a teacher or principal such as in a dramatic production, or a starter’s pistol authorized for use by a teacher at an athletic event, are not considered weapons unless used to intimidate, to threaten, or to inflict bodily harm on a person.
2. The principal is responsible for communicating procedures for dealing with weapons in the school.
3. Staff members, in attempting to remove non-life-threatening weapons or take action against a person possessing a non-life-threatening weapon, shall exercise due care for their personal safety as well as that of students, staff and public in the vicinity.
4. Where a serious threat exists, the police shall be called to deal with the matter. See Lethbridge School Division *Crisis Response Manual*.
5. Where a weapon has been removed from an individual or where it has been necessary to inform the police regarding the possession of a weapon under this policy, the parents/guardians shall be informed.
6. Any weapons confiscated shall be disposed of forthwith as follows:
 - 6.1. Non-life-threatening weapons shall be immediately turned over to the principal or administrative designate.
 - 6.2. The principal or designate is authorized to confiscate weapons and shall be responsible for contacting the police, where appropriate, with respect to disposition of seized knives, guns, or other weapons.
 - 6.3. The Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol may be activated at this time.
 - 6.4. The consequences outlined in the Division and/or school’s Student Code of Conduct shall be applied and may include suspension or expulsion. See Policy 502.3 Suspensions and Expulsions.
7. Instructional programs involving the use of weapons require the prior approval of the Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services in which case the principal shall ensure that all weapons are:
 - 7.1. safely transported and stored; and
 - 7.2. used only under direct supervision by qualified persons in an appropriate facility.