Rationale
Maryborough Education Centre (MEC), has a responsibility to provide a safe educational environment that ensures the safety of all member of the MEC community against any threatening behaviour using a sharp implement. A sharp implement can be deemed as anything that can inflict injury or harm to another person.

Goals
This policy aims to ensure a safe school environment by:

- providing consistency in the operation of each class
- ensuring all members of the MEC community feel safe and secure during their time at school
- minimising the number of threatening incidents involving knives or sharp implements
- informing the MEC community of the consequences of the misuse of knives and sharp instruments.

Guidelines
Staff are required to:

- be observant for signs of inappropriate actions using implements such as kitchen knives, scissors and technology tools
- supervise all classes and yard areas allocated while on yard duty
- arrive at class on time
- dismiss classes only when the bell sounds
- lock rooms that contain sharp implements when they exit the room
- defuse any dangerous situations without putting themselves and other students at risk by:
  - taking steps to support victim(s)
  - reducing the danger without placing the victim(s) at further risk or endangering self and other
  - removing aggressor(s) when safe and possible to do so
- report incidents to a member of the leadership team
- in an emergency situation 000 should be called.

Students are required to:

- use kitchen knives, scissors and technology tools in the appropriate way they have been instructed and in the manner for which the instrument or tool was designed
- not use any sharp implement to threaten or intimidate any other MEC community member
- not incite other students to misuse sharp implements
- not play pranks using sharp implements
- actively discourage aggressive students from continuing the behaviour without putting themselves at risk

Parents/guardians are required to:
- encourage children to use sharp implements appropriately and as instructed
- be willing to attend meetings if your child is involved in an incident involving sharp implements and work cooperatively with the a member of the leadership team
- not deal directly with the other children or their parents but work through and with the school.

Responsibilities and Actions of School:
- enact MECs emergency management plan as required
- any incident involving a sharp implement will be dealt with immediately by the principal/assistant principal or sub school leader
- thorough investigation from school authorities will take place involving all parties
- the Victorian Police and Emergency Management will be notified about all incidents involving the misuse of sharp implements
- upon the results of the investigation the school will take the appropriate action as per the major incident plan
- counselling will be available for all individuals involved.

All students are expected to complete a safety module appropriate to the subject they are studying. The module will be set by the teacher to the requirements that he/she deems necessary.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s 3 year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on 22nd November 2017

Signed:

Paul Rumpff
School Council President