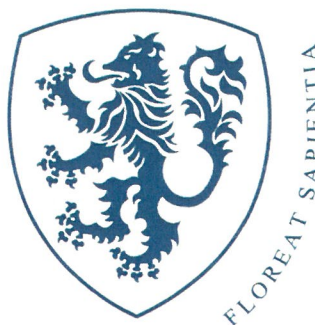


WYMONDHAM COLLEGE



SEARCHING, SCREENING AND CONFISCATION POLICY

Policy Consultation & Review

This policy is available on our school website and is available on request from the College.

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on a tri-annual basis. This policy was last reviewed and updated in October 2020. It is due for review during October 2023.

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. McMorran', written over a blue circular stamp.

Headteacher

Date: 15 October 2020

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. McMorran', written over a blue circular stamp.

Chair of Governors

Date: 15 October 2020

Author: Dale McMorran

INTRODUCTION

This policy is designed to supplement the Behaviour Policy and Student Code of Conduct. The policy will be guided by current advice given by the Department of Education regarding searching, screening and confiscation and will be updated in line with Department guidance issued to headteachers, Governing Bodies and school staff.¹ Detailed advice is contained in the document produced by the Department and the purpose of this policy is not to replicate that advice but to refer readers to that document as the primary source for current advice and guidance.

PRINCIPLES OF SEARCHING

The following principles apply at Wymondham College:

- College staff can search a student for any item if the pupil agrees²
- The Principal and staff authorised by him have a statutory power to search students or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items include, but are not restricted to:
 - Knives or weapons
 - Alcohol
 - Illegal drugs
 - Stolen items
 - Tobacco, cigarette papers or electronic cigarettes including vapour inhalers
 - Fireworks
 - Pornographic images
 - Any article that a staff member suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence or
 - To cause personnel injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student)

CONFISCATION

College staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful to College discipline.

¹ Department for Education: Searching, Screening and confiscation. Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies February 2014. www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation

² The ability to give consent may be influenced by the student's age or other factors

SCREENING

The following applies at Wymondham College:

- The College can require students to undergo screening by a walk-through or handheld metal detector (arch or wand) even if staff do not suspect them of having a weapon without the consent of the students.
- The College's statutory power to make rules on student behaviour³ and the College's duty as an employer to manage the safety of staff, students and visitors⁴ enables the College to impose a requirement that students undergo screening.
- Any member of College staff can screen students.
- If a student refuses to be screened, the College may refuse that student access to the premises.
- If a student fails to comply, and the College does not allow them access to the campus, the student is not excluded and their absence should be treated as unauthorised.
- This type of screening, without physical contact, is not subject to the same conditions as apply to the powers to search without consent.

SEARCHING WITH OR WITHOUT CONSENT

Detailed advice for staff who may be searching with or without consent is contained in the Department guidance. This advice is to be considered before a search with or without consent is undertaken.

SEARCHING BOARDER'S ROOMS

Where there is justified reason to search a boarder's room the search will be carried out by the Head of House (or their nominated deputy) with the student present where possible. Where student permission is not given, parental permission should be sought, except where the student may claim Gillick competence. Should neither permission be obtained, the search should only be carried out on the authorisation of the Principal or Senior Vice-Principal or SLT on-call member of staff who should also be in attendance during the search.

For the avoidance of doubt, there should be a minimum of two staff present at any search and a follow-up written report completed after the search and handed to the Head of House. Further advice on the conduct of any search and any subsequent confiscation is contained in the Department guidance.⁵

³ The Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2010.

⁴ Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

⁵ All searches will be carried out in accordance with section 550ZA of the Education Act 1996. Further guidance is also available in the BSA briefing Paper No 15, Conducting a search of a pupil's room, belongings or person.