

The Wilnecote School

Title of Policy: Searching, Screening and Confiscation (including Electronic Devices)

Member of leadership team with lead responsibility for oversight and update of policy	S. Simpson
Approved at SLT	Oct 2024
Approved at Governing Body	October 2024
Policy approval date	October 2024
Policy review cycle	Every 2 Years
Policy review date	October 2026

The Wilnecote School has a responsibility to keep students and staff safe and to act upon any concerns that are raised regarding students being in the possession of prohibitive items that may cause danger to themselves or others within the school community.

The list of prohibited items is:

- knives and weapons;
- alcohol;
- illegal drugs;
- stolen items;
- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used:
 - to commit an offence, or
 - to cause personal injury to, or damage to property of; any person (including the pupil).
- an article specified in regulations:
 - tobacco, cigarette papers and vapes;
 - fireworks; and
 - pornographic images.

We therefore reserve the right to request students to let us search them should concerns be raised, as much to clear them of any wrong doing as to identify and then deal appropriately with an item they should not have.

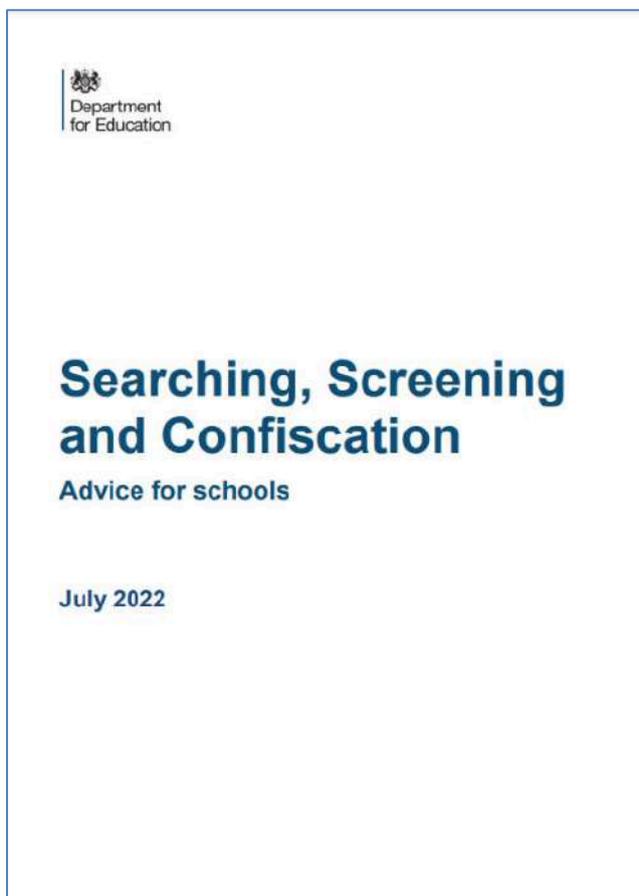
Our searching, screening and confiscation policy is based on the following principles:

- Should a student be identified as needing to be searched, a search is always conducted in a way that aims to maintain the safety and dignity of all concerned.
- Appropriate members of staff of the same gender will always be deployed as a priority and whenever possible.
- Only members of staff who are trained and designated to do so by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher may undertake a search. There will be another member of staff present as a witness to the search.
- The school will always seek to gain consent for a search to be undertaken but also has the right to search possessions or property without the consent of a student should there be clear cause for concern.
- Images and content stored on an electronic device may constitute as items that are prohibited and/or may place individuals in danger or cause deep distress. Staff have the right to ask students to unlock devices and to search them.
- If a student refuses to be searched or screened, the school reserves the right to refuse the student permission to enter the school site and to issue sanctions as deemed proportionate and appropriate.
- A refusal by a student to be searched, does not enable the school to ascertain that a student is innocent of possessing a prohibited item, so requiring a judgement to be made based upon the likelihood of possession. The school

retains the right to make this decision without concrete evidence, taking into account the non-compliance of the student when having the opportunity to prove their innocence and to issue sanctions as deemed proportionate and appropriate.

- The school will confiscate any prohibited items from students.
- Incidents of searching, screening and confiscation are recorded and reported to the Deputy Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Safeguarding, when the occasion gives rise to a particular concern.
- Parents are informed of all reported incidents that give rise to a particular concern.
- The Deputy Headteacher or a member of SLT will inform parents. If they are not available, the next most senior member of staff will carry out this duty

As a school, we use the following document written by the Department for Education to inform our practice:



Please refer to this document using the link for more detailed guidance.

[Searching, Screening and Confiscation - July 2022](#)