



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	Mr. S Simpson
Approved at SLT	May 2023
Policy approval at Governing Body	May 2023
Policy review cycle	Annually
Policy review date	May 2024

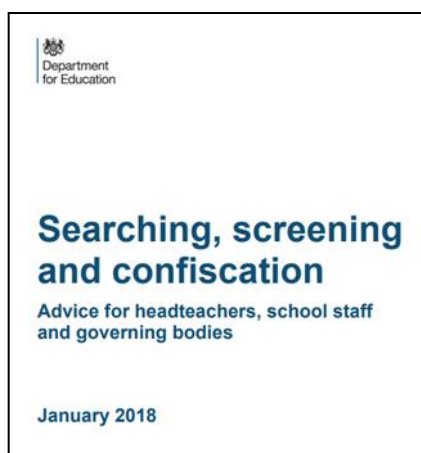
The Wilnecote School has a responsibility to keep students and staff safe and to act upon any concerns that are raised regarding students being in the possession of prohibitive items that may cause danger to themselves or others within the school community.

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 Senior Deputy Headteacher may undertake a search.
- Should a student request another member of staff to be present, this will be facilitated if appropriate and possible.
- 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.
- Incidents of searching, screening and confiscation are recorded and reported to the Senior Deputy Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Safeguarding and Behaviour, when the occasion gives rise to a particular concern.
- Parents are informed of all reported incidents that give rise to a particular concern.
- The Senior Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher 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 below for more detailed guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>