



*The*  
**COUNTY**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**  
*Leftwich*

Achieving Excellence

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**Document Control Sheet**

Document Type	Policy
Document Name	Searching, Screening & Confiscation
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This document is part of the group which include	Safeguarding, Behaviour for Learning, Anti-Bullying, Acceptable Use, Online Safety, Exclusions, Policy Statement Additional & Special Education Needs, Drugs' Education, Use of Images, Student Illness, Accident & First Aid, Recruitment, Supporting Students with Medical Conditions, Single Equality Scheme, Transgender and Health & Safety Policies
Equality Act 2010 fully considered	Yes
EIA Form Completed	Yes

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## Searching Screening & Confiscation

1. At The County High School Leftwich, staff are expected to maintain the safety and positive wellbeing of its students and deal with breaches of our 3 clear behaviour expectations in order to ensure that all students are safe.
  2. Instances where it is necessary to search for, screen and confiscate items in order to maintain those standards are extremely rare but on such occasions, however infrequent, appropriate guidance will be followed.
  3. This policy is a response to the guidance document providing advice by the Department for Education. ([Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for Schools, July 2022](#)) As such, The County High School, Leftwich pays cognisance to the following advice found within the named document.
  4. Key Points from the Guidance are as follows:
    - 4.1. **Searching**
    - 4.2. Authorised school staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees.
    - 4.3. Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items are:
      - 4.3.1. Knives or weapons
      - 4.3.2. Alcohol
      - 4.3.3. Illegal drugs
      - 4.3.4. Stolen items
      - 4.3.5. 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 the property of, any person (including the pupil).
      - 4.3.6. Tobacco and cigarette papers
      - 4.3.7. Vapes and electric cigarettes
      - 4.3.8. Fireworks
      - 4.3.9. Pornographic images
      - 4.3.10. Headteachers and authorised staff can also search for any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.
5. **Confiscation**
  - 5.1. School staff can confiscate any item they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:
    - 5.1.1. poses a risk to staff or pupils;
    - 5.1.2. is prohibited or identified in the school rules for which a search can be made; or
    - 5.1.3. is evidence in relation to an offence.
  - 5.2. **Screening**
    - 5.2.1. Screening is the use of a walk-through or hand-held metal detector (arch or wand) to scan all pupils for weapons before they enter the school premises.
    - 5.2.2. Schools' statutory power to make rules on pupil behaviour and their duty as employers in relation to the safety of staff, pupils and visitors enables them to impose a requirement that pupils undergo screening.
    - 5.2.3. If a headteacher decides to introduce a screening arrangement, they should inform pupils and parents in advance to explain what the screening will involve and why it will be introduced.