



24th January 2018

Searching and confiscated items

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the elements of Government legislation on searching and screening. There have been a few occasions where students have questioned the school's powers in this area and I have extracted below key areas of our policy to be aware of.

First and foremost to be aware of is that school staff **do not need parental/carer permission** to search for banned items or any item that might be considered dangerous. Any member of school staff has the power to search, with consent, for any prohibited item. Such a search is limited to asking a student to turn out their pockets, empty their bag or open their locker. If the student fails to comply with this request, then the concern as to possession of a prohibited item should be passed to a senior member of staff. The list of prohibited items includes:

- Knives and weapons
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Stolen items
- Tobacco cigarette paper, lighters and matches
- Fireworks
- Pornographic image
- Any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property.

The Headteacher and other authorised staff can also search for any items banned by the school rules which have been identified as an item which may be searched for. School 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 or detrimental to school discipline. Searches are normally conducted with two members of staff present unless to seek a second member of staff might result in disposal of a banned item. Full details of the searching and screening policy can be found on our website under Parents/Policies in the "Positive Behaviour Policy".

Another area to highlight as a result of this policy is the power to confiscate an item. The policy details below procedures for collecting these:

- Jewellery will be kept until the following Monday at 3.15pm
- Clothing will be kept until the end of that day
- Electronic devices will be kept until the end of that day (unless it is a second offence where parents/carers will need to collect)
- Fizzy and high energy drinks will be disposed of. These are now banned items.

I would be grateful if you could ensure your child is aware of these procedures and that these are national guidelines and not imposed solely by Campion School.

Yours sincerely

Mr S King (Senior Lead for Behaviour)

