



SEARCHING AND SCREENING POLICY

MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

Reviewed: November 2025
Date Approved: 02 December 2025
Next Review Date: Autumn Term 2027



Document Control Sheet

Document Type	Policy
Document name	Searching and Screening
Originator	Sarah Colclough
Approved by	Full Governing Body
Date Approved	02 December 2025
Review interval	Biennial
Date of last approval	New policy
Date of next review	November 2027

Middlewich High School
King Edward Street, Middlewich, Cheshire, CW10 9BU
Tel: 01606 537670

SEARCHING SCREENING & CONFISCATION

1. At Middlewich High School, 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, Middlewich High School, pays cognisance to the following advice found within the named document.
4. Key Points from the Guidance are as follows:

Searching

- 4.1. Authorised school staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees.
- 4.2. 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:
 - Knives or weapons
 - Alcohol
 - Illegal drugs
 - Tobacco/ Vapes
 - Stolen items
- 4.3. 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).
 - Tobacco and cigarette papers
 - Vapes and electric cigarettes
 - Fireworks
 - Pornographic images
 - Headteachers and authorized 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

School staff can confiscate any item they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- poses a risk to staff or pupils;
- is prohibited or identified in the school rules for which a search can be made; or
- is evidence in relation to an offence.

6. Screening

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.