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St Michael's Catholic Academy

**Head Teacher:** Clare Humble
**Deputy Head(s):** Marc Scott, Clare Carey & Matthew McAuley
**BHCET CEO:** Stuart McGhee
**BHCET Chair of Directors:** Yvonne Coates

21 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Michael's Catholic Academy, the wellbeing, education and safety of our students remains at the heart of everything we do. We continually review our procedures to ensure that our school remains a safe, calm and respectful environment where all students can focus on their learning.

As part of this commitment, we are introducing the use of a handheld metal detector (wand) as an additional safeguarding measure in circumstances where there is a concern that a student may be in possession of a prohibited item, such as a mobile phone, not in a pouch, or a vape.

To reassure all parents and carers, the handheld metal detector will **not** be used routinely, and it will only be considered as a last resort, after other appropriate strategies have been used. A student will always be given the opportunity to hand over any prohibited item before the wand is considered.

Where its use is considered necessary, the procedure will be carried out sensitively, respectfully and with the student's dignity in mind. In accordance with our procedures as outlined below:

- The wand will only be used by trained safeguarding staff.
- Two members of staff will be present.
- The procedure will take place in a private room, away from other students.
- The student will be spoken to calmly and clearly throughout.
- The student will be given the opportunity to hand over any item beforehand.
- The incident will be appropriately recorded.
- Parents/carers will be informed following its use.
- Any prohibited item will be confiscated, and you will be asked to collect.

We have also shared student-friendly guidance so that our students understand what the handheld metal detector is, why it may be used and the safeguards that will be in place. Students are reminded that they can speak to their Form Tutor, PLM or a member of the Safeguarding Team if they have any concerns or questions.

This measure is not about catching students out. It is about strengthening our safeguarding arrangements, protecting learning time and helping to maintain a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

Your sincerely,

**Claire Carey**
**Deputy Headteacher**