

Searching, Screening and Confiscation Statement

This statement accords with DfE 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies February 2014' and should be referred to with the following statement:

The Acorns School through its positive behaviour and code of conduct strategies discourages the bringing of prohibited and banned items to school. Each morning pupils are requested to hand in any items that could be considered prohibited or banned in a safe and encouraging way. If staff suspects that a prohibited or banned item is on their person and they have refused to hand it in, the pupil will be screened with an appropriate security screening device (hand held metal detector). If a pupil refuses to be allowed to be searched and we suspect that a banned or prohibited item is on their person as a result of a screening alert the school may refuse to have the pupil on the premises and in the case of a suspected prohibited item, the school will contact the police for support.

Searching

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 or banned items. Prohibited items are:

- knives or weapons
 - alcohol
 - illegal drugs
 - stolen items
 - tobacco, cigarettes, e-cigarettes and cigarette papers
 - lighters
 - fireworks
 - pornographic images
 - 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).
- 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. The Acorns School will conduct a search for **mobile phones and electronic equipment that has camera/ internet/ social media facilities in line with the schools Safeguarding policies and procedures. The schools Fizzy Sugary and Caffeine laced Drinks Policy indicates that the items stated are banned.**

Confiscation

- 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.
- Confiscated items will remain in school until a parent/carer comes to school to collect them. Any items confiscated that are of an illegal nature will be given to the appropriate authority.

September 2017.

To read DfE 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies February 2014' please look on www.theacornsschool.co.uk in the section indicated as school policies.

Reviewed September 2022

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