

Seaholme Primary School Student Searches Policy

Rationale:

- At times, it may be necessary to conduct searches of school and student property and to seize particular items so as to ensure the safety of students and staff, compliance with the law, and obedience of the Student Code of Conduct.

Aims:

- To ensure the ongoing safety of students and staff members
- To ensure that the law, and/or Student Code of Conduct are consistently upheld
- To ensure all student's rights are protected and preserved.

Implementation:

- Teachers owe students a duty of care to protect them from reasonably foreseeable injury during the time they are in their care and control, and while they remain in a teacher pupil relationship. This may include the search and seizure of items without notice.
- The School Council president will be kept informed of all searches or plans to search.

Permissible Searches:

- Lockers and tubs being school property can be searched without notice.
- A search of school bags or external clothing of a student where a teacher has a reasonable suspicion that there is imminent danger of the student using a weapon to injure themselves or others, and the search is necessary.

Non-permissible Searches:

- Searches of student's external clothing except as stated above.
- Strip searches of students or internal body cavity searches.
- Searches of personal possessions of students such as bags, purses and containers are not permitted without appropriate informed consent. Students can be instructed, but not forced to empty out their pockets, bags and containers.

Dangerous Situations:

- Where a reasonable suspicion exists that a student is concealing a weapon, illegal drug or other dangerous item, and it is unlikely that they will imminently use the weapon or substance, the student should be separated from others, and the police and parents contacted. If the belief is that the student, other students or staff are in imminent danger, then immediate action may be taken to prevent injury to the student or others, while police and parents are contacted.
- Confiscated items are the responsibility of the teacher, and are to be returned to students at the end of each school day/week, parents or police as soon as practicable, depending upon their nature and circumstances.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

September 2008