



Consideration flowchart when managing a police search of a pupil in school

What can school staff search for?

- Knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs and stolen items; and
- Tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks and pornographic images; and
- 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, or damage to property; and
- Any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

'STUCK'?

Consult the Director of Safeguarding, Louis Donald:
07527 760 408

Scan for:
Searching,
Screening and
Confiscation
(HM Gov, 2022)



ALL 'STRIP' SEARCHES MUST BE REPORTED TO THE DIRECTOR OF SAFEGAURDING

DECISION MADE TO SEARCH A PUPIL ON THE ACADEMY SITE

STOP – AUTHORITY MUST BE SOUGHT BY THE PRINCIPAL

DECISION MADE TO SEEK POLICE ASSISTANCE IN SEARCHING A PUPIL ON THE ACADEMY SITE

On arrival, the DSL should discuss with the police:

1. Why have the Police been asked to attend?
2. How do you hope they can help?
3. Ask the Police what their planned actions are.
4. Ask the Police whether a parent should attend.
5. Ask them if an 'Appropriate Adult' is required.

This meeting with the police must be recorded on CPOMS, and the record must demonstrate how each point was considered.

Where the decision by the Police is to search the pupil

CONTACT PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents must be contacted by the school before the search takes place. The Parents/Guardians **must** be invited into school to act as the appropriate adult.

APPROPRIATE ADULT ALLOCATED

CAN BE:

- Parent
- Friends or carers
- Social workers
- Charity workers
- Specialist appropriate adults (either paid or voluntary)

CANNOT BE:

- Police Officers
- The Principal of a child's educational establishment (unless waiting would cause unreasonable delay and the offence is not against that establishment).

VULNERABILITIES DISCUSSION

The Designated Safeguarding Lead must communicate any vulnerabilities known by the school to any police officer who wishes to speak to a pupil about an offence they may suspect.

This communication must be recorded on CPOMS.

✓ **POLICE OFFICERS OF THE SAME SEX**

✓ **APPROPRIATE ADULT PRESENT?**

✓ **AWAY FROM PUBLIC VIEW**

Agreed by Police/Principal/Appropriate adult that it is appropriate to search away from the School. → **SEARCH TAKES PLACE**

IF IN DISAGREEMENT – CONTACT 101 AND SPEAK TO AN INSPECTOR (or above)

Consider referrals to Children's Services

Safeguarding Response

Immediate aftercare

The school must recognise that such contact with police is traumatic, and the school should ensure that robust package of support is put in place for the child who has been searched.

Schools should consider if its required for a referral into Children's Services to be made. Where it isn't, the DSL must record on CPOMS the reasons why a referral is not to be made.

If a child is being searched for a weapon, or drugs; it may be an indicator of substance misuse, exploitation or other safeguarding concerns. The DSL must ensure that any search is seen as a safeguarding incident and appropriate support is in place.

ALWAYS RECORD ALL DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS REACHED AND RATIONALES ON CPOMS IN THE MOMENT