



ACTON HIGH SCHOOL

Interim Headteacher: Gill Stewart

19th June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Safeguarding; Screening students

During this term we will be working with the Metropolitan Police Safer Schools team to screen students for banned and dangerous items.

This is a safeguarding intervention that many schools in Ealing such as Featherstone, Ellen Wilkinson and Dormers Wells have put in place. The purpose of the screening is to deter inappropriate behaviour and to ensure that all students and staff are safe. The screening will take place on an unannounced day during the school day and involve students being searched by police officers.

If you object to your child being searched please note that the law states that schools can search for following items without consent;

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

What the law allows:

- Schools can require students to undergo screening by a walk-through or hand-held metal detector (arch or wand) even if they do not suspect them of having a weapon and without the consent of the students.
- Schools' statutory power to make rules on student behaviour and their duty as an employer to manage the safety of staff, students and visitors enables them to impose a requirement that students undergo screening.
- Any member of school staff can screen students.

Please also note:

- If a student refuses to be screened, the school may refuse to have the student on the premises.
- Health and safety legislation requires a school to be managed in a way which does not expose students or staff to risks to their health and safety and this would include making reasonable rules as a condition of admittance.
- If a student fails to comply, and the school does not let the student in, the school has not excluded the student and the student's absence should be treated as unauthorised. The student should comply with the rules and attend.
- This type of screening, without physical contact, is not subject to the same conditions as apply to the powers to search without consent.
- Schools do not need students' consent and any member of staff can screen students.


Please follow the link below or go to the department of Education website for a summary about this departmental advice

Searching, screening and confiscation

This advice is intended to explain schools' powers of screening and searching pupils so that school staff have the confidence to use them.

Please note that if a student is found with a banned item such as a weapon or an illegal substance an appropriate sanction will be put in place which might lead to a decision to exclude the student permanently from Acton High School.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Noel
Interim Deputy Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)