

Search & Confiscation Policy

Ratified by Chair of Govs:

Signed by 

Date 14/7/25

Date:

Review Date:

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment at MIAG (Meeting Individual Aspirations & Goals). It outlines the legal powers and responsibilities staff have to search learners and confiscate items where appropriate, and sets out how these powers are exercised safely and fairly.

Legal Framework:

This policy is based on:

- ✚ DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation guidance (2022)
 - ✚ Education Act 1996 and 2011
 - ✚ Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)
 - ✚ Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
 - ✚ MIAG's Safeguarding and Behaviour Policies
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Principles:

- ✚ Learners' dignity and rights must be respected at all times
 - ✚ Searches are a last resort and only undertaken where necessary
 - ✚ Parents/carers will be informed when a search is conducted
 - ✚ MIAG prioritises a trauma-informed, relational approach
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When Can a Search Take Place?

Staff can search a learner if they have **reasonable grounds** to suspect that the learner may be in possession of:

- ✚ Prohibited items (see Section 5)
 - ✚ Stolen property
 - ✚ Items that pose a risk to health and safety
 - ✚ Items that may disrupt learning or school order
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Prohibited Items:

MIAG defines the following as **prohibited**:

- ✚ Weapons or any item that could be used as a weapon
 - ✚ Alcohol
 - ✚ Illegal drugs
 - ✚ Stolen items
 - ✚ Tobacco, vapes or cigarette papers
 - ✚ Fireworks
 - ✚ Pornographic images
 - ✚ Any article likely to be used to commit an offence or cause harm/disruption
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Who Can Search?

- Searches can only be carried out by **authorised staff**
- At least **one member of staff must be the same sex** as the learner (unless there is an immediate risk)
- A second adult must act as a **witness**, where possible.

Strip searches or removal of any clothing except outerwear will never be carried out by MIAG staff. If deemed necessary for safety, the police will be called, and the process will follow statutory guidelines.

Conducting a Search:

- ✚ Staff will explain the reason for the search
 - ✚ Searches will be carried out respectfully and in private
 - ✚ Learners will be asked to empty pockets, bags or turn out items
 - ✚ Staff will not touch learners or remove clothing other than outerwear (e.g., coats, hats)
 - ✚ MIAG's safeguarding lead will be informed if the learner shows signs of distress
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Confiscation:

Items found during a search may be:

- ✚ Returned to the learner at the end of the day
- ✚ Retained by MIAG if they are not allowed in provision
- ✚ Handed to the police if the item is unlawful

Mobile phones, vapes, and energy drinks may be confiscated in accordance with MIAG's Behaviour or Mobile Phone Policies.

Informing Parents/Carers and Recording:

- ✚ Parents/carers will be informed the same day if a search has taken place and of any outcomes
 - ✚ A written **Search Record** will be completed and logged on the safeguarding system
 - ✚ Safeguarding concerns identified during a search must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
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Complaints:

Any concerns about the conduct of a search or confiscation should be raised through the MIAG complaints procedure.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed **annually** or after any significant incidents or changes to statutory guidance.