

MIAG



Wandering Policy

Ratified by Chair of Govs:

Signed by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Garry Hogg', written over the dotted line for the signature.

Date

14/7/25

Date:

Review Date:

MIAG



Policy Statement:

At MIAG (Meeting Individual Aspirations & Goals), the safety and well-being of all learners, staff, and visitors is our highest priority. This policy sets out clear guidelines for the use of handheld metal detectors (wandering) to screen young people where there have been previous incidents or where staff suspect that the young person may be carrying a banned item. This policy supports our commitment to creating a safe, calm, and supportive environment. Wandering (Screening) **may** be used as part of our broader safeguarding and behaviour policies where there is a justifiable need.

Purpose:

- ✚ To prevent prohibited or dangerous items from being brought onto MIAG premises
 - ✚ To ensure a consistent, respectful, and non-discriminatory approach to searching
 - ✚ To ensure that all learners and staff are safe whilst attending/working at MIAG
 - ✚ To support safeguarding, promote safety, and uphold our duty of care
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Legal Framework:

This policy is informed by:

- ✚ Education Act 1996 and 2011 (powers to search)
 - ✚ DfE Guidance: Searching, Screening and Confiscation (2024)
 - ✚ Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)
 - ✚ Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
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When Wanding May Be Used:

- ✚ When a learner is suspected of carrying a prohibited item (e.g. weapon, vape, or other banned objects)
- ✚ As part of a routine screening process agreed in advance (e.g. upon arrival as part of a safety plan)
- ✚ In response to specific intelligence or concerns about safety
- ✚ To support risk assessments for identified individuals with known safety concerns.

Wanding will never be used as a form of punishment or humiliation.

Procedure:

- ✚ Wanding will only be carried out by trained staff of the same sex as the learner, in the presence of a second adult
- ✚ A verbal explanation of the process will always be given first, in an age- and needs-appropriate manner
- ✚ Learners have the right to refuse a search. If they do, this will be recorded, and appropriate safeguarding or behaviour management action will be taken
- ✚ The wand will be passed over the outside of the learner's clothing and bags without physical contact
- ✚ Any alert or concern arising from the wand will lead to a follow-up conversation or further search as per our [Search and Confiscation Policy](#)

Learner Support and Consent:

- ✚ Learners will be supported to understand the reasons for wanding in accessible language
 - ✚ Consent will be sought wherever possible, though in cases of significant risk, staff may proceed in line with legal guidance
 - ✚ If a learner has a sensory need, trauma history, or medical condition, adjustments will be made to reduce distress
 - ✚ Parents/carers will be informed of any search that identifies prohibited or harmful items
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Record Keeping:

- ✚ All wanding incidents must be logged using the **Wanding Record Sheet**
 - ✚ Records will include the learner's name, time and date, staff involved, reason for wanding, outcome, and any follow-up actions
 - ✚ A member of SLT will regularly review the log to monitor practice and trends
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What happens if a young person refuses to be screened?

- ✚ If the young person refused to be screened (wanded) then they will not be permitted into provision for that session
 - ✚ If the above applies then the absence will be **unauthorised**
 - ✚ If screened (wanded) and found to be in possession of a banned item and the learner refuses to hand it over then they will not be permitted to attend that session; if found in possession whilst in provision then MIAG's Behaviour and Suspension policies will be implemented
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Monitoring and Review:

This policy will be reviewed **annually** or in response to changes in legislation or incidents that require procedural review.