

The King's Summer School

Searching & Confiscation Policy

Reviewed by:	Mike Pengelly (Director of Holiday Programmes, King's School)
Review date:	January 2025



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All The King's Summer School staff are authorised in principle to search students or their possessions. An individual decision to search will normally be delegated to the Director of Holiday Programmes, but on an excursion or other offsite activity may be the responsibility of the excursion/activity leader.

What can we search?

- A student can be searched, with his or her agreement, for any item banned under the school rules.
- Student's, their bedrooms or property may be searched, without consent, where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting the student has prohibited items. Prohibited items are: knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks, 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 to, or damage to the property of any persons (including the student).
- Search can also be made for any item banned by the summer school rules which has been identified as an item that can be searched for, which includes vaping paraphernalia.
- The search may only be carried out where the student is within the care of the school, for example on school property or on excursions.

How are searches conducted?

Any search should be carried out sensitively to protect the privacy and reputation of the student. The member of staff conducting the search should be the same sex as the student and another member of staff, ideally also the same sex as the student, should be present as a witness.

In exceptional circumstances, a search of a student of the opposite sex or without a witness present may be carried out, but only where it is reasonably believed that there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not conducted immediately, and where it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff.

Students should be asked to empty out their pockets. Students may only be asked to remove outer clothing (including gloves, hats). Staff can only search outer clothing. Possessions such as bags and lockable spaces must be searched only in the presence of the student.



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What happens to items found during a search?

- Any banned or prohibited item found as a result of a search or which they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline will be confiscated.
- Tobacco and alcohol must be disposed of.
- Weapons will be handed to the police.
- Other items will be returned to the parent or destroyed.
- Controlled or illegal drugs will be passed to the police or destroyed, on the advice of the local police.
- A note of the content of any inappropriate images will be made before they are deleted.
- Stolen items will be returned to the owner where known; if not, high value items will be handed to the police.

Additional Information

Should you have any questions, or require additional information about this subject, please contact us direct via email at summerschool@kings-school.co.uk.

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