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# 'Wandering' Policy

## **Policy Review**

The responsibility of reviewing and maintaining this policy is Craig Dembicki (Managing Director). This policy will be reviewed annually.

Start date of policy: 4<sup>th</sup> **September 2025**

Date of next review: 4<sup>th</sup> **September 2026**

Signed:

Craig Dembicki, Managing Director - Education 1st

## **Policy for the Use of Metal Detection Wands at Education 1st**

### **1. Purpose of the Policy**

This policy sets out the procedures for using a metal detection wand on students within the Education 1st setting. It aims to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and visitors while respecting the legal rights and dignity of students. The policy aligns with UK legislation, including the [Education Act 1996](#), the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#), the [Human Rights Act 1998](#), and relevant [Department for Education \(DfE\) guidance](#).

At Education 1st, we are committed to fostering a safe and nurturing environment where all students feel supported and respected. This policy has been designed to ensure that any necessary searches are conducted in a manner that prioritises the well-being and holistic needs of each student.

### **2. Legal Framework**

#### **This policy complies with:**

Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Section 85AA): Provides the power for school staff to search students for prohibited items.

DfE Guidance on Searching, Screening, and Confiscation (latest version): Outlines the legal basis for searches and the use of screening tools.

Human Rights Act 1998: Ensures that actions taken respect the rights to privacy (Article 8) and protection from discrimination (Article 14).

Equality Act 2010: Requires reasonable adjustments to avoid discrimination against protected groups.

### **3. Scope**

This policy applies to all students enrolled in Education 1st. It outlines procedures for:

- Situations where a metal detection wand may be used.
- The rights and responsibilities of students and staff.
- Parental/carer involvement.
- Record-keeping and accountability.

#### **4. Definitions**

**Prohibited items:** Includes weapons, drugs, alcohol, or any other item posing a risk to safety as defined in school rules.

**Intelligence or reasonable suspicion:** Information suggesting a student may be carrying a prohibited item, which can arise from direct reports/ intelligence, behavioural indicators, or situational evidence.

#### **5. Principles**

**Safety First:** The use of the wand aims to prevent harm to individuals.

**Holistic Approach:** Searches are conducted with a focus on safeguarding, recognising the individual needs and circumstances of the student.

**Dignity and Privacy:** Searches will be conducted with the utmost respect for the student's dignity and privacy.

**Parental/Carer Communication:** Efforts will be made to inform parents/carers before any search, where practical.

**Equality and Non-Discrimination:** Searches will not target individuals based on protected characteristics such as race, gender, or disability.

**Minimum Intrusion:** Wand use will be limited to cases where there is reasonable suspicion or intelligence suggesting a need for intervention.

#### **6. Procedures**

##### **6.1 Initial Assessment**

A search using a metal detection wand must only be conducted when there is reasonable suspicion or credible intelligence.

A senior staff member must approve the decision to conduct a search/ wand a student.

Any decision to search will consider the student's developmental stage, emotional state, and any special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

## **6.2 Parental/Carer Involvement**

Education 1st will attempt to contact the student's parents or carers before conducting a search/ wand a student.

If contact cannot be made, the search may proceed, provided it is necessary to ensure safety and is conducted in accordance with this policy.

Should intelligence / paperwork suggest that there is a need to be wanded when the referral is received, this will be discussed with parent(s) / carer(s) at the the point of admission

## **6.3 Conducting the Search**

The search/ wand must be carried out by two staff members of the same gender as the student. If this is not possible, the student's privacy and dignity must still be prioritised.

Wanding will take place in a private area away from other students and staff, except for the staff conducting the search.

If a decision is made that the students requires wanding at the point of referral / admission, this will take place each morning upon pick up, This needs to be carried out discreetly by the mentor stepping inside the property address and wanding the student in the presence of the parent(s) / carer(s).

The metal detection wand will be used to screen the outer layers of clothing, bags, or other personal items. The wand will not be used to touch the student directly.

Staff will adopt a calm and reassuring tone, explaining the reasons for the search to the student in an age and cognition appropriate manner.

## **6.4 Daily Wanding Based on Contextual Safety Plans**

Some students may be required to undergo daily wanding as part of their Contextual Safety Plan or Individual Risk Assessment. This measure will only be implemented in cases where

there is a documented history of concerns, and it is deemed necessary to ensure the safety of the student and others.

Consent for daily wandering will be sought from the student and their parents or carers as part of the admissions and risk assessment process.

Daily wandering will be conducted discreetly at the point of pick up inside the door of the property address, in the presence of the parent / carer ensuring consistency and minimising disruption to the student's routine.

The procedure will be carried out respectfully, ensuring the student's dignity and comfort are prioritised.

Any concerns arising from the daily wandering process will be promptly reviewed by the safeguarding team.

### **6.5 Prohibited Items Found**

Any prohibited items found will be confiscated, recorded, and stored securely.

Where appropriate, items may be handed over to the police (e.g., weapons, drugs) in accordance with the [Bristol City Council 'Drugs in Schools' and 'Weapons in Schools' policies](#).

Parents/carers will be informed immediately of the outcome of the search.

Pastoral/ safeguarding staff will engage with the student to understand any underlying issues that may have led to the situation.

### **6.6 Record-Keeping**

Where a student is wanded because of a 'one-off' concern or intelligence, a written record of the wandering must be completed on CPOMS, including:

- The reason for the search.
- The names of staff involved.
- Whether parental/carer contact was made.
- The outcome of the search.
- Records will be securely stored in accordance with data protection laws. • The record will include any follow-up support or actions taken to assist the student.

### **6.7 Follow-Up Actions**

Students found with prohibited items may face disciplinary action in line with Education 1<sup>st</sup> behaviour policy.

Pastoral support will be offered to the student following the incident, including referrals to external services if needed.

## **7. Safeguarding Considerations**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) must be informed of any wandings.

Searches should consider the individual needs of students, including any SEND or mental health considerations.

Staff must ensure the student feels safe and supported during and after the search process.

## **8. Complaints and Appeals**

Students and parents/carers have the right to raise concerns about the conduct of a search through the Education 1st complaints procedure.

Any complaints will be reviewed to identify potential improvements to practice.

## **9. Training and Awareness**

Staff will receive regular training on the legal and procedural aspects of conducting searches/wandings students, with an emphasis on child-centred approaches.

Students will be informed about Education 1st's policy on prohibited items and searches as part of the behaviour policy and student induction process.

## **10. Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to changes in legislation or guidance.