



## SEARCH POLICY

2023-24

THE HAMMOND SCHOOL LTD., MANNINGS LANE, CHESTER, CH2 4ES  
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The Hammond School Limited is registered in England and Wales Number 838325. Registered office is above. Charity Number 1022427 incorporating the Betty Hassall Foundation. The school is accredited by the I.S.A and C.D.E.T. and is a member of the B.S.A and I.S.I.

The Hammond is committed to ensuring all members of our community are safe at all times. There may be occasions when staff, pupils, or students believe another pupil or student is carrying a prohibited item(s).

The school doesn't need your child's consent to search them if they think your child has prohibited items, including:

- weapons, eg knives
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen goods
- tobacco products, eg cigarettes
- pornographic images (of any kind, eg tabloid topless pictures and 'lads' mags' as well as extreme adult material either hard copies or digital – these may be images of minors)
- fireworks
- anything that has been, or is likely to be, used to cause injury or commit an offence
- anything banned in the school rules

These things can be confiscated.

### **Legal requirements of a search**

There should normally be 2 members of staff present during the search - the person doing the search and the search witness. Searches should normally be done by someone the same sex as your child. The Principal can authorise the searching of a pupil/ student.

The search witness must also be the same sex as your child if possible. Your child must not be asked to remove clothes, other than outer clothing like a coat.

If there's a risk of serious harm to a person if the search is not conducted immediately, a child may be searched by a person of the opposite sex and without another member of staff present.

Should a member of staff find indecent images, the member of staff will not forward illegal images of a child but will alert the DSL.

### **Metal detectors**

Schools can make pupils go through a metal detector - they don't have to suspect that your child has a weapon. If your child refuses to go through the metal detector, they can be stopped from coming into school.

### **Complaining about a search**

If you're unhappy with a search on your child at school, talk to the Principal. If you're not satisfied, ask for a copy of the complaints procedure.

**Policy Details**

**This Page Should Not Be Published**

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