

HARLOW COLLEGE

STOP AND SEARCH POLICY

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, the college has statutory powers to search, with reasonable grounds for suspicion and without consent, students at the college.

Note: It is a criminal offence to have a knife or offensive weapon on college premises (Criminal Justice Act 1988). It is allowed to have knives in college for educational or lawful purposes.

The College's 'Stop and Search' procedures will be used if students are suspected of being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol or are suspected of bringing these onto the campus.

2. COLLEGE STRATEGY

- 2.1 College strategy is that where there is reasonable suspicion that a knife or offensive weapon is being carried the college staff will not use this power of search but will call the police.

3. REASONABLE SUSPICION

- 3.1 Reasonable suspicion should be:

- Based on facts relevant to the likelihood of finding a weapon
- Linked to accurate and current information.

4. COLLEGE PROCEDURES

- 4.1
- If there is sufficient concern that a student is carrying a dangerous weapon, then the police should be called immediately.
 - If the police are not able to attend quickly then with reasonable suspicion, and if it is felt safe to do so in a secure area, the Principal or other senior member of staff may ask the question of a student. Two members of staff should be present.
 - If the student admits to carrying a weapon, then the weapon should be confiscated and student disciplinary procedures take place. The weapon should be handed to the police at the earliest opportunity.
 - If a student is suspected of being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol or is suspected of bringing these onto the campus then he/she should be given the opportunity to disclose.
 - If a student under the influence of alcohol or drugs is required to leave the campus, every effort must be made to ensure that they travel safely and return to a place of safety to minimise further safeguarding risks.
 - No physical contact will be used in Stop and Search procedures
 - Students can be asked to open a locker or show what they have in their pockets, bags etc. If they do not comply then they can be asked to leave the premises. In the case of suspected illegal substances the police will be called

- A full incident report should be kept.

TRACKING and REFERENCE INFORMATION
Date Approved: 1 September 2010 (reviewed July 2016)
Review Date: 3 years from the date of approval <u>or sooner if there is a change in legislation.</u>
Author/Responsibility: Assistant Principal
Equality Impact Assessment:
<p>List of related policies, procedures and other documents:</p> <p>Student Disciplinary Procedures Drugs and Misuse of Substances Policy Safeguarding Policy Student Code of Conduct Policy Equality & Diversity Policy Equality and Diversity Scheme Data Protection Policy</p>
Complaints: If you wish to submit a complaint about the application of this policy or the procedure of it, please send your request in accordance with the provisions of the Grievance Procedure.
Monitoring: The application of this policy and associated procedure will be monitored by HR Services
Easy reading: To receive this policy/procedure in a different format, please contact HR Services