

STM Guidelines for screening and searching pupils Autumn 2024

Screening (use of metal detectors) and searching will take place when staff have reason to believe that a pupil is carrying a banned or stolen item. This may come about as a result of a vape detector alert, concerns raised by the behaviour of a pupil or from information from other sources.

Before: SLT will evaluate the evidence which supports the search / screening to ensure that a consistent and reasonable approach is being taken.

The reasons for the screening / search will be explained to the pupil.

During: Search / Screening must always be conducted by SLT and another member of staff.

One of the staff present will be of the same sex as the pupil being searched. SLT will take responsibility for managing the search, however it may be that the witness conducts the search under the guidance of the SLT member. For example, if the pupil is female, a male member of the SLT could be responsible for managing the process, but a female member of staff could be asked to conduct the search.

Searching: The pupil will be asked to empty their pockets, remove their blazer and empty their bag and staff will check these for banned items.
Staff will never conduct a strip search or an 'intimate search'.

If following a search where no banned items are found, the member of SLT has reason to believe that the pupil still has a hidden item about their person, then screening may take place.

Screening: The metal detector wand will be passed in front and behind the pupil to check for metal objects.

If during screening, a metal object is detected, the pupil will be asked to present the item. If the pupil refuses to present the item, they will be warned that the consequences may be suspension.

Parents / carers may be requested to collect the pupil, depending on the nature of the concern.

After: SLT will inform the parents that a search has been conducted, the reasons, the findings (even if nothing has been found) and any resulting sanctions.