



19th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spot Check Searches for Prohibited Items.

I wish to take this opportunity to inform you about an important matter regarding the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff at Bishop Challoner Catholic School.

As a school, we are determined to ensure that our school is a safe learning environment for all. In line with our Behaviour for Learning policy, it is important that all students do not bring any prohibited items into school. To maintain a safe environment, we have decided to conduct year group spot check searches on occasion to ensure that no student has a prohibited item on their person or in their school bags.

We want to inform you that these spot check searches will be conducted from Monday 22nd January onwards. This decision has been made in the best interest of the safety and security of all students and staff at our school.

It is our priority to create a safe and secure environment for all students to learn and thrive in. Therefore, we wanted to inform you about these spot check searches in advance, in line with transparency as part of our statutory policy on searches of our students as directed by the **Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for Schools July 2022**

Our Behaviour for Learning Policy sets out item that can be searched for.

29. Items for which the school may wish to search a student include:

- Suspicion of possessing an offence weapon or other prohibited item (Offensive Weapons are defined in the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 as “any article made or adapted for causing injury to the person; or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him”). It is impossible to produce an exhaustive list of items that would be included in such a definition by the school and so it is defined here as including any object and any corrosive, irritant or poisonous substance where in the school’s reasonable opinion its use as a weapon was possible.
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs / Legal highs
- Stolen items
- Tobacco or tobacco related items
- Vape pens
- Fireworks
- Inappropriate images e.g. pornography, sexting
- Any item that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or cause personal injury, or damage property
- Violent or extremist images or related paraphernalia

This is not an exhaustive list

We appreciate your understanding and support in this matter. We believe that by working together, we can continue to make Bishop Challoner Catholic School a safer place for our students to grow and learn.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be more than happy to address any concerns you may have.

Thank you for your support in advance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Innocent', written in a cursive style.

Mr A Innocent
Deputy Headteacher (Behaviour and Catholic Life)
Bishop Challoner Catholic School