

Conducting of Searches Policy

*See also: Guidelines for the surrender and retention of property and searches (MOE, 2014).
NZ Bill of Rights Act 1990.
The Human Rights Act 1993.*

Rationale:

The purpose of this policy is to provide information and guidance to ensure we follow clear and appropriate processes when conducting a search.

1. Formal searches will take place only when deemed necessary by a member of the senior leadership team, who will conduct the search in the presence of a member of the teaching staff, preferably a member of senior leadership.
2. Students will be advised of the reason for the search.
3. If a student is suspected of being in possession of an illegal drug the Police will be contacted, if possible, prior to the search.
4. If students refuse a search, their parents will be contacted.
5. Bag(s), electronic devices and written material will not be searched without the student(s) who own them being present, except in exceptional circumstances.
6. Students themselves will empty bags/pockets under senior leadership team supervision.
7. Students have the right to ask for teachers of their own gender to conduct the search.
8. Students leaving for a School Camp or Outdoor Education activity may have their belongings (including the contents of their bags) inspected, but parents and students will be informed by prior notice.
9. Except in the case of number 8, parents or caregivers will be advised after the search.
10. Students and parents will be informed of this policy annually.

Approved: 11 May 2020