



for all academies within The Mead Educational Trust.

September 2022	
Executive Team	
December 2022	
September 2024	

	Renaming of policy – previously called ‘Search and Offensive Weapons policy’ Policy reworded considering the Dfe Guidance: ‘Searching, Screening and Confiscation’ July 2022 The addition of Appendix A-Procedures and protocols of conducting search COVID 19 addendum.
C Robson/ R Hindocha/ S Riley	Changed references from ‘RMET’ to ‘TMET’ and included references to Executive Principal.
	Updated to reflect government updates to the Searching, Screening and Confiscation Guidance 2023.
	Updated procedures and protocol when conducting search as per Searching, screening, and confiscation advice July 2015. Inclusion of dealing with mobile devices.
A Rutherford	Review of policy in accordance with conversion to MAT.



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Within TMET, screening and searches are carried out by the Principal, or staff authorised by them. Staff members are entitled to refuse to do a search, unless they are named as a member of security staff. The Principal should ensure a culture of safe, proportionate and appropriate searching is maintained to safeguard the welfare of all pupils and staff. The Principal should ensure that a sufficient number of staff are appropriately trained in how to lawfully and safely search a pupil who is not co-operating.

Authorised staff at TMET schools will:

Explain to the pupil: they are being searched, and the search is going to take place.

Seek cooperation of the pupil in the first instance. If the pupil refuses, the member of staff may consider a sanction under the school's behaviour policy.

Consider whether a search must be conducted urgently, and whether it is appropriate to use reasonable force to search for 'prohibited' items only.

Find an appropriate place for the search, away from other pupils wherever possible.

Ensure that the person undertaking the search is of the same sex as the pupil being searched
there is a witness present.

NB an exception to this rule is where there is a risk of serious harm if the search is not carried out urgently. In this situation, the search may be undertaken by a member of a different sex, but a witness would still be needed; or the search may be undertaken without a witness, but the staff member undertaking the search must be of the same sex.

Authorised staff at TMET schools will:

ensure that only outer clothing, possessions, desks, drawers or lockers are searched, and

only items of 'outer clothing' are removed, e.g., coat, hats, shoes, boots, scarves;

be sensitive to asking pupils to remove items of clothing which hold religious significance;

only search a pupil's possessions in the presence of the pupil and another member of staff, unless there is a risk of serious harm if the search is delayed.

Authorised staff at TMET schools will:

- ensure that appropriate support is given to the pupil who has been searched;
- notify the DSL, who will consider whether there are wider safeguarding risks and consider what support, interventions or referrals are needed;
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