

Boarders Possessions and Promoting Positive Behaviour

STANDARD: 9 and 12

Standard 9 – boarders’ possessions		Evidence
9.4	Any search of boarders’ personal belongings should be carried out in accordance with section 550ZA of the Education Act 1996 and with regard to any guidance issued by the State Secretary of State I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document Confiscation and search • 550ZA of the Education Act • Boarders files – One Note
Standard 12 – promoting positive behaviour and relationships		Evidence
12.1	<p>The school has and consistently implements a written policy to promote good behaviour amongst pupils. This policy includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • measures to combat bullying and to promote positive behaviour; • school rules; • disciplinary sanctions; • when restraint is to be used; and • arrangements for searching pupils and their possessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RWBAT Policy: Behaviour for Learning • RWBAT Policy: Code of Conduct • RWBAT Policy: Anti-bullying • Document: Boarders’ Charter • Document: Boarding Rewards and Sanctions • Document: Closed Status Cards • Document: Agreement to Board • Document: Confiscation and Searching Policy • D for E Search and Confiscation guidance Feb 2014 • Document: Serious Incident Form • Document: Witness Form • Behaviour Contract example • Document: Investigation Guidance

Confiscation and Searching Document

The Wellington Academy has a duty to 'safeguard and promote the welfare of children' (National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools). In exercising this duty, it will pay proper attention to Section 550ZA of the Education Act, there will be occasions on which it is necessary to search a person, belongings, or rooms of a pupil. These instructions set out the circumstances in which such searches should be carried out and how it should be done.

Confiscation

The Wellington Academy Boarding House is built on trust, as such, students are trusted to use their own belongings in a way that is always appropriate and respectful. Should the student not use their belongings in this way, it is likely that the item will be confiscated for a period of time.

Students are given clear guidance through the induction process and through the handbook about appropriate items to bring to boarding and their appropriate use. Should a student misuse these items then it is likely that they will be confiscated. This would constitute a BI in our rewards and sanctions guidance. The item will be confiscated for several reasons including the following:

- Misuse of the item (e.g mobile phone) as it is causing disruption during prep, boarders' assembly, a conversation with a member of staff, or preventing a student from getting sufficient sleep.
- The item may be confiscated for up to 48 hours
- A confiscated phone would not prevent a student from contacting home, alternative arrangements will be made for students to do this via the office/boarding reception phones.

Occasionally, items may be bought into the boarding house which are dangerous to the individual who has bought them in, as well as other members of the boarding house. These items will be confiscated until the student next returns home. They will be asked not to bring the item in again. An example of such items may be:

- Air Gun and Pellets
- Pen Knife
- Candles
- Oil Burners

Please note: This list is not exhaustive, any items that staff/Director of Boarding consider to be dangerous will be confiscated.

Searching

The only people in the school who can carry out such a search are the Headteacher, SLT Member or the Director of Boarding. In exceptional circumstances the Director of Boarding may request that the Senior House Parents leading a shift carries out this search.

The authorised staff have the statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, even when consent has been denied by the pupil, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items include:

- Knives or weapons
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Stolen items
- Tobacco or Cigarette Papers
- Fireworks
- Pornographic Images

- Any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used to 1) Commit an offence or 2) To cause personal injury to, or damage the property of any person (including the pupil).

If the pupil resists a search for a prohibited illegal or dangerous item by an authorised member of staff then consideration may be made by that member of staff to contact the police.

A second adult witness should always be present. Incident reports must be submitted about any such search, listing all the main details. Affected pupils' parents should always be contacted following the search regardless of the outcome.

Positive Behaviour

Students residing in the boarding house at The Wellington Academy are expected to behave in accordance with the school behaviour policy and rules as well as the specific expectations of boarding students detailed in the boarding handbook and boarding admissions policy which all boarders and parents are expected to sign.

Behaviour considered to be unacceptable in the most part will receive a sanction consistent with a parental approach, this may include any of the following:

- Removal of privileges
- Restriction of town leave
- Restriction from activities
- Exclusion from boarding for a specified time
- Withdrawal of boarding place

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Job Role: Senior House Parent

Date: 22.04.2021

Authorised by: Matt Price

Job Role: Director of Boarding

Date: 11.05.2021

Date: April 2021

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