



BANNING, SEARCH & SEIZURE POLICY

Rationale

- Principals can declare and ban harmful items from school premises, or in the possession of children at school or when engaged in teacher supervised activities.
- Principals and authorised teachers have the power to search for and seize these items.

Purpose

- To support the Principal in understanding and implementing her/his powers to ban, search for and seize harmful items as set out in legislative and regulatory frameworks.
- To ensure Footscray North Primary School complies with DET policy and guidelines and the legislative requirements of the Education and Training Reform Amendment (School Safety) Act 2011 *and the* Education and Training Reform Amendment (School Safety) Regulations 2011.
- To ensure the school premises and teacher supervised activities are safe and free from harmful items.
- To ensure the school has strategies in place to support the Child Safe Standards 1 & 2.

Implementation

- The safety and wellbeing of children is this school's highest priority.
- The Principal will use the DET's *Banning, Searching and Seizing of Harmful Items Guidelines* to develop and implement processes to ensure school premises as well as teacher supervised activities are safe and free from harmful items.
- With reference to the above guidelines, the Principal will determine which items will be declared harmful, establish the right to search school premises, premises being occupied by children or vehicles being used during a teacher supervised activity and any bag or other article being used by children as storage.
- The Principal will determine action to be taken after seizure.
- The Principal will determine which teachers will be authorised to search and seize.
- The guidelines do not include mobile phones, drugs or alcohol.
- If staff have concerns about a child concealing items such as cigarettes or items used to disrupt lessons, the child will be instructed to hand them over to the teacher. Items will be retained in the custody of the teacher and at the end of the day, returned to the child or the parent/carer. A mobile phone or jewellery should be returned to the child but cigarettes or alcohol should be given to the parent/carer.
- This policy will be communicated to children as applicable and parents/carers.
- Please refer also to the school's *Drug Education/Use Policy*, the *Smoking Ban Policy*, the *Mobile Phones, Use by Children Policy* and the Child Safe Standards.

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update late August 2017).

This policy was ratified by School Council 25/3/2019

Reference:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/property.aspx