

Oriel High School Prohibited Items and Confiscations Policy

Date Amended: August 2023

Date of Ratification: 05.10.23

Next Review Date: September 2026

Aim

To ensure the safety of students and staff, and maintain good order within the school, we cannot allow certain items to be brought into school. If prohibited items are brought into school then students can expect them to be confiscated.

Purpose

The Education Act 2006 permits schools to confiscate property as a disciplinary sanction in their behaviour policy. Confiscation must be a reasonable sanction and decisions taken about the retention or disposal of confiscated items must also be reasonable.

If items are prohibited this means that they should not be brought onto the school site, allowed onto school trips or visits (unless indicated otherwise) or be in the possession of students on the journey to or from school.

If a member of the school staff believes that a student is in possession of a prohibited item or has brought one onto the school site, then the school reserves the right to search a student's belongings and their locker in order to confiscate and sometimes dispose of such items. Searches of student lockers and/or items will always be carried out by pairs of staff.

Procedures and Practices

Prohibited items which will be immediately disposed of:

Chewing gum
Solvents
Aerosols
Cigarettes, tobacco, lighters, matches and vaping/e-cigarette items
Stink bombs or water balloons
Fizzy drinks (Coca-Cola, Sprite, energy drinks, etc)

Prohibited items which will be confiscated following a breach of the school rules, and retained for parents/carers to collect from a staff member:

Jewellery (see Uniform Policy) – this includes facial jewellery. Only a watch and 5mm plain stud earring may be worn
Non-Uniform items of clothing e.g. hoodies, jumpers.
Alcohol

Prohibited items which will be confiscated and passed onto the police:

Fireworks and explosive devices
Offensive weapons including chains
Imitation weapons including BB guns
Illegal drugs

Possession of the items above will incur a sanction, which may be permanent exclusion.

Mobile Devices/Headphones

We allow students to bring mobile devices into school, on the condition that they remain the responsibility of the students. However, we reserve the right to confiscate them if they are used without permission on the school premises. Students are not permitted to use their mobile device on school premises at any time. However, to ensure the safety of students on their journey home, students may collect confiscated phones at the end of that day.

The school reserves the right to prohibit and confiscate other items, not mentioned above, which are deemed dangerous or inappropriate within the school environment.

Should a member of staff need to confiscate an item, then it will be noted in a record book (usually by a member of the learning community team), and kept locked away for safety.

Oriel High School accepts no responsibility whatsoever for theft, loss or damage relating to prohibited items including those handed in/confiscated.