

Evolution Education

Searching & Screening Policy (2026–2027)

1. Purpose of the Policy

This policy sets out how Evolution Education conducts searching and screening in order to maintain a safe environment for all students, staff, and visitors.

Searching and screening form part of Evolution Education's safeguarding and risk management arrangements and are carried out in line with:

- DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation Guidance (2022)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2025)
- LBBB Alternative Provision Quality Standards
- Requirements of a dual-rolled Alternative Provision model

Searching is a preventative safeguarding measure designed to reduce risk and protect the welfare of all members of the provision.

2. When Searches Are Conducted

Routine searches are carried out:

- On arrival to the centre
- Prior to trips and off-site activities

Students may be searched to prevent the presence of:

- Weapons
- Drugs or alcohol
- Vapes
- Prohibited items
- Items that could be used to cause harm
- Items that significantly disrupt learning or pose a safety risk

These procedures apply consistently to all students attending the provision.

3. Items Removed During a Search

During a search, students may be asked to remove or present:

- Coats and outerwear
- Hats, hoods, and gloves
- Non-uniform head coverings (unless linked to declared religious observance)
- Shoes, where required due to safety concerns
- Bags, pockets, and personal belongings

Religious head coverings are respected and are not removed unless a safeguarding concern is identified and managed appropriately.

4. Head Coverings – Clear Position

To ensure clarity and consistency, the following applies:

Permitted:

- Religious head coverings (where a faith-based reason is stated)
- Medical head coverings (where an explanation is provided)

Not permitted:

- Non-uniform fashion head coverings
- Headwear worn to conceal prohibited items
- Items that prevent a safe or effective search

Where a student states a religious reason for wearing a head covering, this is accepted without challenge and staff adapt the search process accordingly.

5. How Searches Are Carried Out

All searches are conducted in line with legal and safeguarding requirements and are:

- Carried out by trained staff
- Conducted by same-gender staff wherever reasonably possible
- Undertaken respectfully and proportionately
- Explained clearly to the student using calm and supportive language

Students are supported to understand the purpose of searches and the expectations involved.

6. Refusal to Be Searched

Where a student refuses to comply with a search:

1. Staff attempt de-escalation and reassurance
2. The parent school is informed
3. Parents or carers may be contacted
4. Risk assessments are reviewed and updated
5. The student may be placed in Reflection+
6. The placement may be paused if safety cannot be assured

A student cannot remain onsite where a safe search has been refused and risk cannot be managed appropriately.

7. Confiscation of Items

Where items are found during a search, they may be:

- Destroyed (e.g. vapes or alcohol)
- Returned to parents or carers
- Passed to the parent school
- Reported to the police (e.g. weapons or illegal substances)
- Logged appropriately

All actions are taken proportionately and in line with safeguarding guidance.

8. Recording and Notification

All searches and confiscations are recorded on:

- Bromcom (Safeguarding and Behaviour modules)
- Thrive or IEP documentation, where relevant

The parent school is notified **on the same day** of any search or confiscation.

9. Oversight and Accountability

Searching and screening procedures are overseen by:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (CEO) – operational leadership
- Centre Manager (Deputy DSL)
- Mayesbrook Park School – governance oversight
- London Borough of Barking and Dagenham – Local Authority monitoring

10. Complaints

Complaints relating to searching and screening procedures should be submitted to:

admin@evolution-sportsgroup.com

or

info@evolution-sportsgroup.com

All complaints are managed in line with the Evolution Education Complaints Policy.

11. Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually or sooner if statutory guidance changes.

Last Reviewed: January 2026

Next Review Due: January 2027

Approved by:

Evolution Education Senior Leadership Team