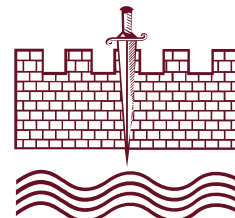




13<sup>th</sup> November 2023



## SHOEBURYNESS HIGH SCHOOL

📍 Caulfield Road, Shoeburyness, Essex, SS3 9LL ☎ 01702 292 286  
🌐 [www.shoeburyness.secat.co.uk](http://www.shoeburyness.secat.co.uk) ✉ [office@shoeburyness.secat.co.uk](mailto:office@shoeburyness.secat.co.uk)

**Headteacher:** Mrs Teri-Leigh Jones

Dear Parents and Carers,

### RE: Important update to Safeguarding Practices at SHS – Mobile Phones and Randomised Searches

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

#### Why are we changing things?

At Shoeburyness High School, we value the crucial role of student voice. We are constantly hearing that our young people, and those in all schools, want to feel safe at school and be able to focus on their learning. We are all aware of some of the more challenging elements of life beyond the school and in the community. We have listened to our students, and we are taking steps to ensure our young people can come to school, feel safe and be able to focus on what matters: their education and personal development.

To this end, we are making a few changes. One of which is to the mobile phone policy - specifically, what happens when a mobile phone is seen. The detail of this will follow in the coming days. We understand that a mobile phone is much more than just a means of communication and the importance of the reassurance it provides to students, parents and carers in terms of student safety and well-being.

Importantly, from the week commencing Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023, we will be conducting **randomised, irregular searches** upon entry to the school. Just like theme parks and concert venues have processes to ensure items which shouldn't be taken on to their sites, we will be following a similar approach.

#### What will it look like?

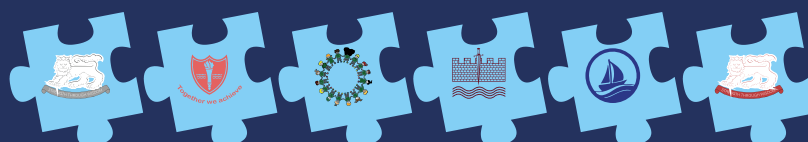
At the start of a school day, at (pre-planned) irregular intervals and times, students will be asked to show us the contents of their school bags, pockets etc. This will ensure that the process is entirely randomised and minimise repetition as far as possible.

Searches will be done out of view of other students to preserve students' dignity and privacy. Staff will be members of the Senior Leadership and Pastoral Teams.

#### What happens if my child has something they shouldn't?

If your child is found with anything they should not have, **we will let you know immediately**. Any items found which are not in line with the school safeguarding and behaviour policy will be confiscated.

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If your child is one of the selected searches on the day, you will be informed via a neutral event on My Child At School the same day. If students have not brought in anything they shouldn't, there is nothing for them to worry about. This is a quick process and we will be sharing the procedure with students in a whole-school briefing this week.

This new procedure does not change our normal intelligence-led searches as part of our ongoing procedures.

I thank you and our young people for supporting this important change to continue to uphold the safeguarding and behaviour principles at the school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Jones'.

Teri-Leigh Jones  
Headteacher