

General Principles for Searching Students and Their Belongings at School

- a) The authority of a teacher is a delegated authority, therefore it should not exceed the power that a parent possesses, e.g. parents do not have the power to abuse their children physically or mentally, therefore, no such power can be delegated to the teachers;
- b) The delegated power should be the power that a reasonable parent would delegate to a teacher and is reasonable in the circumstances, e.g. parents have the power to bring their child to leave Hong Kong but no reasonable parent would delegate such a power to the teacher and such power is also unreasonable in the circumstance;
- c) If the principal or the teacher is in doubt, they should obtain explicit parental consent;
- d) Any action taken for the maintenance of discipline should be reasonable and appropriate;
- e) Under all circumstances, school discipline should be administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present laws, including those laws on the right to privacy; and
- f) The school should inform students and parents clearly their disciplinary rules prior to admission and at the beginning of each school year.