

5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have recently had a couple of instances of students bringing laser pointers/pens into school. **These items are banned and must not be brought into school in any circumstance.**

If a student is found to have a laser pen/pointer in school, this will be confiscated and will not be returned to the student – parent/carers will be informed and required to collect from the school office.

If a student uses a laser pen/pointer in school there will be serious consequences. This is because, there's a real risk they could cause permanent eyesight damage to themselves or someone else.

I have attached a leaflet with further information and some example of what these can look like are below. Can you please discuss this with your child, and ensure they do not bring them into school.



Thank you for your support.

Ben Tucker  
Principal, City Academy

## Grit, Honesty and Team Spirit

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Office for Product  
Safety & Standards



# Laser pointers are not toys

**Laser pointers have become increasingly popular among children, but these potentially dangerous devices are not toys.**

False labelling, cheap prices and high-powered devices mean more children are suffering eyesight injuries from lasers. This advice will tell you how to keep your child safe from injury.

# What are laser pointers?

Laser pointers are handheld devices which emit a laser beam of coloured light. They are used in medicine, education, and construction, but are becoming popular with children. In the UK, it's illegal to sell powerful lasers to the public, but these products pose a danger to adults and children alike.

## Why say no

### They can permanently damage eyes



Increasing numbers of children are suffering eyesight injuries caused by lasers. A laser pointer that's used incorrectly can permanently damage your child's retina.

### They are not toys

Laser pointers are used by professionals in science, education and construction – your child doesn't need one.



## What to do

### Be aware

Many laser devices come into the UK from overseas. Always check what your child is buying online or when on holiday abroad, for example from street sellers.



### Look out for false labelling

Imported devices are often labelled with incorrect or fake information. A laser pointer could be more powerful – and more dangerous – than the description suggests.



## Take action

If your child owns a laser pointer, there's a real risk they could cause permanent eyesight damage to themselves or someone else.

**The safest thing to do is throw the laser away.  
Remove the batteries and dispose of it responsibly.  
Check with your local council for the right disposal facilities.**

**For more advice, visit** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-product-safety-and-standards>

#losethelasers

