

# STOP AND SEARCH

ST GILES SOS+ PROJECT

## THE PURPOSE OF STOP AND SEARCH

**Stop and search is a simple way for the police to investigate an individual without needing to arrest them.**

Stop and search is a power that enables police officers to detain and search anyone that they have reasonable grounds to suspect are in possession of either stolen property or prohibited items, such as, a weapon, illegal drugs or something that could be used to commit a crime.

### WHAT CAN A POLICE OFFICER ASK ME?

- Information to successfully identify you, such as name, address, date of birth
- What you are doing

**You MUST reply with the correct details once the officer tells you what you are being detained for.**

## HOW DO I KNOW I HAVE BEEN ARRESTED?

- A police officer arresting you will tell you that you are under arrest, the reason why, and read you your rights.
- They will usually take you to a police custody suite while they continue their investigation and decide whether to charge you with a crime or release you.

## HOW DO I KNOW I AM BEING DETAINED?

- The police officer will explain they have reasonable suspicion to detain you for the purpose of searching you.
- This can only last as long as is necessary to conduct the search.
- In a public place, you can film a stop and search unless it interferes with the police carrying out their duties.
- Police officers MUST film the stop and search to protect you and them. Footage is kept for 31 days unless required for police purposes.

# YOUR RIGHTS

## WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IN A STOP AND SEARCH?

- You should be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect
- A community support officer must be in uniform, but a police officer does not need to be
- The officers must show ID
- Ask what 'illegal items' they are looking for
- The officer must tell you the reasonable grounds of suspicion they have
- Be searched in private (out of view of other people) if you are removing more than your coat and gloves
- Be searched by an officer of the same sex
- Be given a receipt of the search at the time, or be told where you can collect this record.

