



**UNIVERSAL
PHILIPPINE
SCHOOL**
First Filipino School in Al Ain

Parent and Student Guide: Drug Awareness, Prevention, and Support Policy

Why This Policy Is Important

Our school wants every student to feel safe, healthy, and protected. Drugs, vaping, smoking, and other harmful substances can seriously affect a child's body, mind, and future. To make sure our school stays a safe place to learn, we have rules that help keep everyone away from harmful substances.

We follow the guidelines of ADEK and UAE laws, which strictly do not allow drugs or harmful substances in or around schools.

What We Want to Achieve

This policy aims to help students and families by:

1. Keeping our school free from drugs, vaping devices, and harmful substances.
2. Teaching students, parents, and staff about the dangers of substance use.
3. Acting quickly and fairly when there are concerns about drugs or harmful substances.
4. Helping students who struggle through counseling and support, not just punishment.
5. Working closely with parents and health experts to support student wellbeing.

Who Must Follow This Policy

- All students
- All parents
- All teachers and school staff
- All visitors and service providers
- All school locations, including buses, trips, and activities

What Is Not Allowed

Students are not allowed to bring, use, share, or encourage the use of:

- Drugs or illegal substances
- Vapes, e-cigarettes, shisha pens
- Tobacco or cigarettes
- Prescription medicine that is not theirs
- Any tools or materials used for drugs

Being under the influence of drugs or harmful substances is also not allowed.

What the School Does to Keep Everyone Safe

1. Teaching and Awareness

We provide:

- Lessons about healthy choices
- Awareness programs
- Parent workshops
- Staff training to notice early signs of substance use

2. Keeping the School Safe

- Locker and bag checks when needed
- School is marked as a Drug-Free Zone
- More supervision in busy areas and during breaks

What Happens If There Is a Concern

Reporting

Anyone who sees something unsafe can report it to:

- The Principal
- The Student Behavior Team/ CPT
- The School Counselor
- Prefect of Discipline

- Health and Safety Officer

All information is kept private.

Checking the Situation

The school will:

- Speak to the student calmly and respectfully
- Keep any items found safely
- Ask the school nurse to check if the student needs medical help
- Inform parents immediately

Searching Belongings

If needed, staff may check:

- Bags
- Lockers
- Personal belongings

Body searches are not allowed.

A staff member of the same gender and a witness will always be present.

Consequences for Breaking the Rules

The school considers every situation carefully. Actions may include:

- A warning
- Meeting with parents
- Counseling sessions
- Behavior Improvement Plan
- In-school or out-of-school suspension
- Community service
- Mandatory rehabilitation program
- Possible expulsion for serious cases (like selling or distributing drugs)

How the School Helps Students

We believe in support and guidance, not just punishment.

Students may receive:

- Counseling with the school counselor/psychologist
- A Behavior Improvement Plan (BIP)
- Regular check-ins
- Monitoring by the wellbeing team
- Referrals to doctors, psychologists, or specialists if needed

Parents are important partners and must be involved in the process.

Working with Authorities

If needed, the school will:

- Follow ADEK guidelines
- Follow UAE laws
- Cooperate with police or health authorities

This is done only to ensure student safety.

Confidentiality

- Information is shared only with people who need to know
- Records are kept secure and private
- The student's dignity is always respected

Returning to School After a Violation

Before the student goes back to normal classes:

- They must finish counseling sessions
- Parents and student attend a reintegration meeting
- A behavior agreement is signed
- Continued monitoring will take place

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