



School Policy on Drug Awareness, Prevention, and Intervention

Rationale

The school is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment that promotes the wellbeing and academic success of all students. The increasing exposure of young people to drugs, stimulants, psychotropic substances, vaping devices, and other harmful materials poses significant risks to their physical, emotional, and psychological development.

In alignment with the ADEK Student Behavior Policy and UAE national laws, the school maintains a zero-tolerance approach to drug possession, use, distribution, and influence within school premises and during any school-related activity. This policy ensures that all stakeholders—students, parents, staff, and the community—understand the expectations, preventive measures, disciplinary procedures, and support interventions designed to protect students from the dangers of drug use.

Objectives

This policy aims to:

1. Ensure a drug-free school environment by preventing the possession, use, distribution, or promotion of illegal drugs, stimulants, psychotropic substances, and related paraphernalia.
2. Educate students, parents, and staff about the harmful effects of substance use and strengthen awareness of prevention strategies through structured programs.
3. Establish clear and consistent procedures aligned with ADEK regulations for responding to drug-related incidents with fairness, confidentiality, and due process.
4. Provide rehabilitative support and intervention for students involved with drugs, prioritizing wellbeing, counseling, and recovery over punitive measures.

5. Strengthen collaboration with parents, health professionals, and authorities to ensure appropriate action, safeguarding, and follow-up for any student affected by drug-related issues.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students enrolled in the school
- All staff members, service providers, and school partners
- All parents/guardians involved in student-related matters
- All school premises, buses, events, and school-sponsored activities (on or off campus)

Definitions

- **Drugs/Substances:** Illegal drugs, prescription medications without authorization, stimulants, psychotropic substances, inhalants, synthetic drugs, vapes/e-cigarettes, tobacco products, and drug paraphernalia.
- **Possession:** Having drugs or materials found on one's body, clothing, bags, lockers, or belongings.
- **Use:** Smoking, inhaling, ingesting, injecting, or consuming substances in any form.
- **Distribution:** Sharing, selling, offering, or attempting to give drugs to others.
- **Influence:** Showing signs of intoxication or behavior suggesting substance use.

Policy Statements

1. The school prohibits the possession, use, distribution, or influence of drugs or related substances.
2. The school fosters proactive preventive measures through education and awareness.
3. Procedures for handling drug incidents follow ADEK guidelines and UAE law.
4. Student dignity, confidentiality, and rights are respected during all investigations.

5. Rehabilitation and support are prioritized to promote student recovery and wellbeing.

Preventive Measures

Awareness & Education

- Annual awareness programs for students on dangers of substance use.
- Curriculum-integrated lessons on health, wellbeing, and decision-making.
- Regular parent workshops on early detection and prevention.
- Staff training on recognizing signs of drug use and proper reporting channels.

Safe School Environment

- Random inspections of lockers, communal areas, and outdoor spaces.
- Visible signage declaring the school as a Drug-Free Zone.
- Close monitoring of students during transitions and breaks.
- Enhanced supervision in critical areas and during school transportation.

Procedures for Handling Drug-Related Incidents

Reporting

Any staff, student, or parent must report suspected drug involvement immediately to the:

- Principal
- Head of Student Behavior/Discipline
- School Psychologist or Wellbeing Officer

Reports are confidential and documented.

Initial Assessment

- Investigator interviews involved individuals.
- School Nurse assesses the student's condition.
- Evidence collected and preserved respectfully.

- Safety and medical attention prioritized.

Search Procedures

- Conducted by authorized staff of the same gender.
- A second staff member must witness.
- Searches include student bags, lockers, and belongings—NOT body searches.
- Parents notified immediately.

Parental Notification

Parents receive prompt communication regarding the incident, findings, and next steps.

Documentation

A comprehensive incident report includes:

- Details of the case
- Statements
- Evidence
- Actions taken
- Recommended disciplinary measures

Disciplinary Actions (Aligned with ADEK Student Behavior Policy)

Prohibited Behaviors

- Possession
- Use or influence
- Distribution or attempted distribution
- Bringing substances to school
- Promoting or encouraging drug use

Consequences

Depending on severity and circumstances:

- Written warnings and behavior contracts
- Parent conferences
- Counseling and behavior modification programs
- In-school or out-of-school suspension
- Mandatory rehabilitation programs
- Community service
- Expulsion for repeated or severe cases (such as distribution)

Rehabilitation & Student Support

Counseling and Intervention

Students must undergo:

- Psychological assessment
- Counseling sessions (individual or group)
- A tailored Behavior Improvement Plan (BIP)
- Monitoring of progress by the Wellbeing Team

Referral to Experts

Possible referrals to:

- Psychologists
- Psychiatrists
- Addiction specialists
- Government health services

Parent cooperation is required.

Collaboration With Authorities

The school will follow:

- ADEK reporting protocols

- UAE legal procedures
- Cooperation with police or health authorities when required

The priority is student safety and compliance with the law.

Confidentiality

- All cases are handled professionally and discreetly.
- Records are stored securely and only accessible to authorized personnel.
- Information shared on a need-to-know basis.

Reintegration Procedures

Before the student returns to normal classes:

- Complete counseling requirements
- Conduct a reintegration meeting
- Sign a behavior agreement
- Commit to ongoing monitoring

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually and updated based on:

- ADEK regulatory changes
- UAE legal updates
- School needs and incident trends

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