

# TAFELBERG SCHOOL



# DRUG ABUSE POLICY

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## **1. OBJECTIVE**

- 1.1. to encourage and develop a safe, disciplined and drug-free learning environment based on a drug-free ethos.
- 1.2. to contribute towards effective prevention, management and treatment of drug use, misuse and dependency in the school.

The key thrust of this policy is to help and support those learners who use/misuse drugs as long as they are prepared to co-operate with the educators and other professionals and to protect the rights of those learners and staff who are affected by the drug usage of others.

## **2. DEFINITIONS**

### **DRUG**

Any substance taken to change the way a person feels, thinks or behaves. The term "drug", "drug prevention", "drug testing", "drug education", unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all illegal and unauthorized drugs.

- All illegal drugs (as defined and controlled by the Medicines Control Council and the Medicines Act and including illegal sports performance enhancing drugs)

- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates

- All over the counter and prescription medicines unless justifiably required for therapeutic purposes and specifically prescribed by means of a written prescription by a qualified practicing medical practitioner.

NOTE: Any additional illegal or unauthorized drug may be included on this list at any time, and any learner who is selected for a drug test is subject to being tested for all or any combination of drugs on the screening profile without advance notice.

### **DEALING**

Selling, exchanging, swapping, supplying, and trafficking

## **ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES**

Categories of substances of which the production, sale, possession and use is illegal.

## **INHALANTS**

Substances that are inhaled for their effect e.g. glue, thinners, petrol, aerosol sprays, paint, solvents.

## **IMAGE AND PERFORMANCE SUBSTANCES**

A range of illegal substances used to improve body image or sporting performance.

## **PHARMACEUTICALS**

Prescription and over the counter drugs available from a pharmacy used for purposes other than restorative or curative.

## **SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

Learners, educators and other staff, governing bodies, parents/guardians.

## **STRUCTURED INTERVENTION**

A controlled crisis situation where the user is confronted with the realistic facts pertaining to his/her substance misuse and is offered access to professional counseling or rehabilitation services.

## **TARGETED DRUG TESTING**

The selection of learners for drug testing in instances where there is a reasonable suspicion of, or report about, the learner misusing illegal drugs.

### **3. PERSONS WITH KEY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING AND MANAGING THE DRUG POLICY AND ITS OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Drug Testing	Mr L Benecke (Principal) Mrs J Lundie (Vice Principal) Mrs Z Helm (Deputy Principal) Mr B Chaston (HOD) Mr W Abrahams (HOD)
Drug Education	Ms S Booley (Head of LO) Mrs E Kidd (Psychologist) Ms D Kotze (Councillor)

### **4. POSITION STATEMENT**

This policy is consistent with, and complementary to, related policies and legislation on the control of drug abuse in schools, in particular:

- 4.1 Drug Abuse Policy Framework, Dept. of Education, Gazette 24172, 13 December 2002.
- 4.2 National Drug Master Plan, Dept of Social Services, 1999 — 2004
- 4.3 Regulations for Safety Measures at Public Schools, Gazette 22854. 12 October 2001
- 4.4 Safe Schools Project, WCED

This policy applies while a learner is in school uniform, on school premises or when he/she is in any public place where he/she is likely to be identified by the public as a learner of this school.

The school reserves the right to take action according to the policy and procedures if a learner's substance use outside the school influences his/her academic performance, behaviour, attendance or appearance while at school or any school related activity.

### **5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- 5.1 The possession, use and/or distribution of illegal drugs and the inappropriate use, possession and/or distribution of prescription/over the counter medication is prohibited in South African Schools.

- 5.2 This policy is underpinned by a supportive and restorative orientation to drug related issues only when the school is informed and requested to help.
- 5.3 Learners who have experienced or are experiencing problems as a result of drug use/misuse or dependency will be entitled to appropriate assistance, only if they themselves seek such help from the school. Those who attempt to hide their use of drugs or try to mislead the school with regard to their drug abuse, will forfeit their right of help that the school maybe able to provide. If reintegration is deemed by the SGB and school management team to be detrimental to the safety and discipline of the school, the learner should be assisted in finding an alternative school/placement (Government Gazette 2002, art 30).

## **6. PREVENTION**

The entire school community will be educated regarding drugs and the misuse thereof. The objective of prevention education is to reduce or delay the likelihood of experimentation with drugs by providing information about substance use, misuse and dependency as well as to encourage learners who are experiencing problems, to seek help.

## **7. MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED SITUATIONS**

A range of interventions are available to manage drug related incidents, taking into account confidentiality, the nature of the incident, the circumstances of the learner involved and the needs and safety of the school community. All staff will be trained on the procedure and management of drug related situations.

## **8. CONFIDENTIALITY**

All information relating to drug use, misuse and dependency by a learner will be treated as confidential. Parents/guardians will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity in an attempt to assist the learner. Where the school, as part of a relapse prevention programme, requires reports from a professional person, these will be furnished to a designated and trained person on the staff.

## **9. DRUG TESTING & PROCEDURES**

Refer to the “Search and Seizure and alcoholic liquor and illegal drug testing” policy for a detailed outline of the testing procedure.

### **Procedure and penalties for drug-related incidents**

#### **a) Positive test results**

Whenever a learner's drug result indicates the presence of illegal drugs (i.e. a "positive" test result) the following will occur after notification of the parents:

- (i) 1st Positive result: Referral to School psychologist for intervention in co-operation with parents/guardians.
- (ii) 2nd Positive result: Sanction for external rehabilitation programme to be followed.
- (iii) 3rd Positive result: Matter referred to SGB.

#### **b) Possession of illegal drugs/dealing in illegal drugs**

- (i) Learners found in possession of illegal drugs will be handed over to the SAPS and the matter will be referred to the School Governing Body.
- (ii) Learners dealing or trafficking in illegal or unauthorized drugs will be handed over to the SAPS and the matter will be referred to the School Governing Body.

## **INTERNAL PROTOCOL/PROCEDURE FOR MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS AT TAFELBERG SCHOOL.**

1. Teachers and other staff who have a reasonable suspicion that a learner may be using/dealing drugs must make a written or verbal referral to the Deputy Principal who co-ordinates the Code of Conduct. The referral may be motivated by information received or by observation of changes in the learner's performance, behaviour and appearance that cannot be otherwise explained.
2. The Deputy Principal may consult with the Principal or Psychologist before formulating the plan of action according to the nature and content of the referral.
3. The parents/guardian will be alerted according to the drug abuse policy.
4. The plan of action may include a discussion with the learner and or parents, referral for counseling, referral to SAPS, and/or convening a SGB hearing. A learner may be suspended pending enrolment in a drug rehabilitation programme if he poses a threat to the safety or well-being of learners, staff and or himself.

5. All staff will receive regular in-service training to inform them about current information and procedures in drug related incidents.
6. The SAPS will always be called to investigate any charges of possession of drugs, and/or use of drugs by learners or staff. The school is a drug free and smoke free zone.

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Mr LE Benecke  
Principal

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Mr D Baird  
SGB: Chairperson