

## ANNEXURE D

# EBEN DÖNGES HIGH SCHOOL SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

## 1. PERSPECTIVES

For the purposes of school policy note the following definitions will apply: substance use = substance **abuse**; in possession of a prohibited substance or **drug-related paraphernalia** = the abuse of a prohibited substance; under the influence of a prohibited substance = in possession of a prohibited substance or **drug-related paraphernalia**.

Substance abuse is regarded as a serious transgression and will carry stiff penalties. It is the concern of the learners, parents, school and police if learners use drugs.

1.1 It is recognised that substance use is a problem at school for the following reasons:

1.1.1 it interferes with the learning ability of learners;

1.1.2 learners are less motivated;

1.1.3 it is illegal;

1.1.4 it can be a health hazard (accidents, psychologically and physically);

1.1.5 it can lead to dealing and other crimes.

1.2 It is a problem if substances are used at Eben Dönges High School, because:

1.2.1 the reputation of the school, and consequently, the learners, will suffer;

1.2.2 the school is failing its learners if it does not strive to keep the school environment drug-free and safe.

## 2. WHERE AND WHEN THE POLICY SHOULD APPLY

The policy will cover the school and all who use the premises. The policy also covers registered learners of Eben Dönges High School whenever they are wearing school uniform, or are connected with the school in any way.

It is the school policy that no learner should ever be exempt from the consequences as spelt out in the drug policy.

## 3. GENERAL

3.1 The school is concerned that drug use leads to more serious crime in schools.

3.2 The drug policy will cover prescription drugs.

3.3 Eben Dönges High School will, given the permission of individual parents, have pupils submitted for urine or any other tests, when substance abuse is suspected.

3.4 Parents/guardians will be held responsible for any expenses incurred during a drug/alcohol-related incident (tests, outside programmes, medical attention etc.) unless alternative arrangements have been made with the school.

3.5 The school will collect data on drug abuse for research and monitoring purposes.

#### **4. NOTIFICATION**

The following interest groups will receive notification of the Substance Abuse Policy:

4.1 registered learners and parents;

4.2 prospective parents and learners;

4.3 the public (on request.)

#### **5. EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

The school believes that learners should receive education on prescription drugs, tobacco, alcohol, dagga and hard drugs. The school will provide education for all age groups on all categories of drugs. The presentation and content will be factual and restrained for prescription drugs and as terrifying as possible for all other categories.

5.1 This education should be through the following channels:

5.1.1 there should be information available on request;

5.1.2 outside speakers should be invited;

5.1.3 videos shown;

5.1.4 reformed addicts should be invited to speak to learners.

The school does not feel that education makes drug use seem widespread and normal or will make learners more curious about drugs. On the contrary, education enables young adults to make informed choices.

#### **6. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

6.1 School policy opposes the inappropriate use of legal drugs (alcohol and tobacco) and the possession and use of prohibited substances. This policy is applicable:

6.1.1 on school premises;

6.1.2 at functions, excursions or any other activity organised by the school;

6.1.3 when members of the school community are representing the school or wearing the school uniform.

6.2 The school does not permit learners:

6.2.1 the use of prohibited substances;

6.2.2 the inappropriate use of prescribed and/or over-the-counter medicines;

- 6.2.3 the inappropriate use of solvents, inhalants, and/or other chemical agents;
- 6.2.4 the consumption of alcoholic beverages;
- 6.2.5 the smoking of tobacco and other drugs;
- 6.2.6 the possession of drug-related paraphernalia such as cigarette papers, pipes, etc.;
- 6.2.7 to be under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs.

## 7. DEFINITIONS

### 7.1 Drugs

A drug is commonly defined as any substance which changes the normal way in which the body or mind functions.

7.1.1 Readily available drugs include:

- 7.1.1.1 prescribed and over-the-counter medicines;
- 7.1.1.2 solvents, petrol, adhesives, chemical agents, etc.;
- 7.1.1.3 illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD, heroin, cocaine, amphetamines, etc.

### 7.2 Dealing

Selling, exchanging, swapping, supplying, distributing, trading, etc.

7.3 The departure point of the policy is:

- 7.3.1 learners will be punished for being under the influence and/or for bringing tobacco, alcohol, dagga, **drug-related paraphernalia** and hard drugs to school;
- 7.3.2 the school will assist in the rehabilitation efforts of learners;
- 7.3.3 the school should be notified if learners are taking prescription drugs. Learners are not allowed to bring more than one day's dose of prescription drugs to school;
- 7.3.4 the buildings of Eben Dönges High School (with the exception of private offices) should be a smoke-free zone.

## 8. POLICY

Eben Dönges High School will actively strive to enforce its drug policy. The school will act to curtail substance abuse by assisting the police in their activities on the premises, where and when required.

Ignorance concerning a substance will not be accepted as an excuse. (Any unfamiliar substance or **drug-related paraphernalia** must be reported and handed over to a teacher immediately.)

The school reserves the right to search learners and their possessions at any place or time during school hours or any school-related activities. This may be done with or without the co-operation of the police and/or “sniffer” dogs.

## **9. PUNISHMENT**

The following procedures must be followed where a learner has not previously been found guilty of serious misconduct:

### **9.1 PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

#### **9.1.1 Possession**

##### 9.1.1.1 First offence

9.1.1.1.1 Parents informed and a final warning.

9.1.1.1.2 Prescribing doctor informed.

9.1.1.2 Second offence: Suspension

9.1.1.3 Thereafter: Expulsion

#### **9.1.2 Dealing & Selling**

9.1.2.1 First offence: Expulsion

### **9.2 TOBACCO**

#### **9.2.1 Possession**

##### 9.2.1.1 First offence

9.2.1.1.1 Parents informed

9.2.1.1.2 Warning

9.2.1.2 Second offence

9.2.1.2.1 Parents informed

9.2.1.2.2 Learner referred to a compulsory anti-smoking programme

9.2.1.3 Third offence: Suspension

9.2.1.4 Thereafter: Expulsion

#### **9.2.2 Dealing & Selling**

9.2.2.1 First offence: Suspension

9.2.2.2 Second offence: Expulsion

### 9.3 **ALCOHOL**

If there is any suspicion that a learner is under the influence of alcohol during school hours or at a school function, he/she will be given the opportunity to prove his/her innocence immediately. A standardized electronic alcohol-testing gauge i.e. a breathalyzer, will be used in the presence of two senior members of staff and a member of the Student Council. Should a learner refuse to take the test, this refusal will be considered an admission of guilt.

#### 9.3.1 **Possession**

##### 9.3.1.1 First offence

###### 9.3.1.1.1 Suspension

9.3.1.1.2 Learner referred to compulsory session with a support/ counselling group.

9.3.1.2 Second offence: Expulsion

#### 9.3.2 **Dealing & Selling**

9.3.2.1 First offence: Suspension

9.3.2.2 Second offence: Expulsion

### 9.4 **DAGGA, DRUG-RELATED PARAPHERNALIA AND HARD DRUGS**

#### 9.4.1 **Possession**

##### 9.4.1.1 First offence

###### 9.4.1.1.1 Suspension

9.4.1.1.2 If the situation merits it, the learner is conditionally allowed to continue his/her school career. The following conditions will apply:

a) He/she immediately stops the usage.

9.4.1.1.3 Police will be informed

9.4.1.2 Second offence: Expulsion

#### 9.4.2 **Dealing and Selling**

9.4.2.1 First offence: Expulsion

### 10. **REHABILITATION AND SUPPORT GROUPS**

#### 10.1 Reporting of alcohol and/or drug dependence:

If a parent/guardian contacts the school, or a learner reports of his/her own accord for help, the learner will be granted the opportunity for rehabilitation. (Not applicable on the day of random testing). The following conditions will apply:

- 10.1.1 He/she immediately stops the usage
- 10.1.2 He/she follows a rehabilitation programme. The school must be kept informed of the location and the duration of the programme. The learner can be excused for a period of up to a maximum of six weeks if hospitalisation is deemed necessary for rehabilitation.
- 10.1.3 He/she must undergo weekly/monthly (depending on the severity of addiction) blood and/or urine tests. A copy of the results must be submitted to the school.
- 10.1.4 The tests must be continued for a time period as stipulated by the school and the doctors involved, even after tests are negative, until the school is satisfied that the addiction has been broken.
- 10.2 If such a learner is again found guilty of alcohol or drug abuse, immediate steps will be taken for the expulsion of this learner.
- 10.3 The school will play a co-ordinating and managing role in the establishment of rehabilitation programmes and support groups for learners and parents. It is expected that these initiatives will be set up and run by the groups set out below.
- 10.4 Support groups for parents should be run by outside organisations, e.g. SANCA. (Tel: 945 4080) and Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre (Tel: 447 8026)
- 10.5 The school recognizes that confidentiality is an important concern, and will strive to limit teacher involvement in problem cases.
11. The school undertakes to evaluate this policy and adapt it, if and when necessary, according to changing circumstances and conditions.
12. Signing of this document is a prerequisite to acceptance at the School.