

ANNEXURE F

PREGNANCY POLICY EBEN DÖNGES HIGH SCHOOL JANUARY 2010

Eben Dönges High School endeavours to send a clear message to learners to abstain from having sexual intercourse at all times. In this way they can guard against sexually transmitted diseases, the HIV virus and unplanned pregnancies. Unplanned pregnancies have a devastating effect on future of girls – a much greater impact than on the future of the boy/father.

According to the constitution, the principal, the School Governing Body (SGB) and the District Office are responsible for ensuring the right of all learners to quality education. This includes enrolled pregnant learners and learners who are parents.

1. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOOL

- The school will endeavour to allow the learner's education to continue with as little disruption as possible in the circumstances.
- The learner must accept the responsibility to hand in tasks on time to enable the school to provide her with a SBA mark. These marks will provide the multifunctional team at the District Office with the necessary information to come to a decision on her progress.
- It is important that the school inculcate the principle of abstinence from sexual activities. Good moral values must form the basis of sex education.

2. THE MALE LEARNER (IF HE IS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL)

- The SGB must be notified.
- The learner must receive counselling/support from structures at the District Office, if required.
- The SGB and the learner will conclude a written agreement concerning appropriate behaviour in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the school.

3. THE PREGNANT SCHOOLGIRL

- The learner and her parents have an obligation to inform the principal immediately. This matter must be regarded as confidential and dealt with sensitively.

- The learner must be regarded as a learner with special needs and can rely on the support services of the District Office. The principal, together with two teachers appointed by the principal, will manage this process.
- The principal must keep the SGB informed.
- The principal will arrange a meeting with the parents of the girl in order to:
 - determine how the parents intend to deal with the situation.
 - inform the parents of the support available: the District Office : educational support services; social worker
 - inform the parents as to how the school will assist the learner in catching up on academic work.
 - encourage parental involvement

4. ALTERNATIVES TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- To attend school, subject to medical advice, (a medical certificate must be provided to confirm this) until the learner can no longer fit into the school uniform / is obviously pregnant.
- Withdrawal for the duration of the pregnancy. Parents are responsible for obtaining the learning material and the arrangements in this regard.
- Permanent withdrawal from the school, taking own responsibility for further education.

5. PREGNANCY DURING SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

- The learner has the right to attend school as close to the date of the confinement as is medically advisable. (A medical certificate must confirm this).
- In cases where special arrangements need to be made, the principal must inform the WCED Director: Examinations, and a medical certificate must be provided as proof.
- **Should a learner be more than 32 weeks pregnant on 1 October of the Grade 12 year, as confirmed by a medical certificate, she will have the following options:**
 - to write the final examinations at a separate venue
 - to write the final examination as a private candidate at another centre and to stop full-time school attendance
 - to write the supplementary examination in the following March. This learner will have to provide a medical certificate to confirm that the pregnancy was so advanced that it was not possible to write the examination in October / November.

- Should the learner not be able to write the examination in November or March, she must ensure that she enrolls as a private candidate for the following examination.
- **Should the learner be fewer than 32 weeks pregnant on 1 October, and choose to write the examination, she will be given the following options:**
 - to write the examination at her school
 - to write at another school or a special centre
 - to withdraw as a full-time learner and enrol as a private candidate to write at a special examination centre
- **Should the learner decide to write the examination at a special examination centre in October / November, she will be given the following options:**
 - The principal will help the learner to arrange with the Director: Examinations to write at a special centre.
 - If the learner is the only candidate at this special centre, the parents/guardian will be responsible for the remuneration of the invigilator. The fee will be the same as the fee the WCED pays for invigilators.
 - The Circuit Manager must approve this centre.
 - The special invigilator must collect the specific question paper from the chief invigilator when the papers are opened in the official venue, and take it to the special examination centre.
 - On completion of the examination, the invigilator must return the answer script to the chief invigilator, who will send it to the WCED together with the other answer scripts.
- **Should the confinement disrupt the learner's final examination, the learner will have to register herself as a private candidate for the following examination.**

6. PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED (SENIOR TEACHER RESPONSIBLE)

- The pregnancy must be reported to a senior teacher (2 senior educators will be appointed by the principal). (Learners must be encouraged to report to a teacher.)
- The learner must be referred to a social worker / clinic – choices / care.
- The learner must be encouraged to leave school in time to allow for antenatal and postnatal health matters.

7. INDEMNITY WITH REGARD TO PREGNANT LEARNERS

- The learner/parents/guardians must be aware that the school does not have staff with medical expertise. A confinement during school hours is a health risk and a traumatic experience for learners and staff members.
- It is the parents' duty to notify the school immediately.
- The learner attends the school at her own risk.
- Learner must withdraw from all sport/cultural activities, e.g. netball, hockey, school choir, Eisteddfod.
- Learner must resign from all positions of leadership e.g. RCL, Senior Council, sports captain, class captain.
- No school activities may be attended e.g. prize-giving, talent evenings, fête, Mr and Miss Eben Dönges.
- Learner may only attend school from 07:50 – 14:20.
- The school is indemnified against any pregnancy-related injury and/or incident.
- No accountability for alternative or additional logistical arrangements.
- Parents must request and collect tasks / assignments during the learner's absence from school. Completed tasks must be returned to the school before or on the due date.
- No exceptions regarding the School's Code of Conduct. (No exceptions will be made regarding the school uniform).
- The learner must not participate in LO or extra-curricular activities of a physical nature which could be dangerous to her health.
- The learner / parents / guardians must provide regular reports from the doctor / clinic.
- On return to school after the confinement, a medical certificate must be provided to show that the learner is fit to resume classes.
- If the learner returns to school, she is not permitted to bring the baby, or photographs of the baby, to school.

8. DISTRICT OFFICE MUST BE INFORMED (OFFICIALLY)

- Parents and learners must accept that, owing to different value systems, the school community will not always support and condone the situation, and that the school has a responsibility to the entire community.



EBEN DÖNGES HIGH SCHOOL TEENAGE PREGNANCY INDEMNITY

I parent/guardian of
Grade and section undertake to give my full co-operation
regarding the following:

- The learner attends school at her own risk.
- The school is exempt from all liability for any pregnancy-related injuries/incidents.
- The school is not responsible for any alternative/additional logistic arrangements.
- Parents are responsible for requesting and collecting tasks/projects during the learner's absence and must ensure that these tasks are submitted to the school timeously.
- No exceptions regarding the Code of Conduct, nor the school uniform, will be made.
- The learner will not take part in any risky LO/extra-curricular activities before the confinement.
- The school will be provided with regular reports from a doctor/clinic.
- After the confinement, the school must be provided with a medical certificate, as proof of fitness to resume classes.
- After she has returned to school, the learner is not permitted to bring the baby or photographs of the baby to school.

Signature learner: **Date:**

Signature parent/guardian: **Date:**

Signature educator: **Date:**