

Anti-Smoking & Drug Education Policy

(Aligned with UAE Law & KHDA Guidelines)

Policy Reviewed – March 2026

Date of Next Review – March 2027

This policy has been developed through consultation with the Governing Body, school staff, parents, students and local health authorities recognizes its duty to promote health, safety, and wellbeing, and aims to equip students, staff, and parents with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to make informed and responsible choices regarding drugs, smoking, and substance misuse.

For the purpose of this policy, “drugs” include:

- Legal substances: alcohol, tobacco, energy drinks, caffeine, solvents, vapes/e-cigarettes.
- Medicines: prescribed and non-prescribed.
- Illegal drugs: substances prohibited under UAE Federal Law No. 30 of 2021.

“Drug misuse” refers to the possession, distribution, or use of substances in ways not medically or legally intended.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

- In line with UAE Ministry of Education guidelines and KHDA directives, this policy aligns with national and international best practices.
- The school follows safeguarding, health and safety, and child protection requirements.
- All staff, parents, and students will be made aware of the zero-tolerance approach to illegal drugs on school premises or during school-related activities.

Aims of Drug Education

The drug education programme aims to:

- Provide accurate, age-appropriate information about drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vaping.
- Develop skills to resist peer pressure and make positive lifestyle choices.
- Raise awareness of the social, physical, and mental health risks of drug misuse.
- Equip staff and parents to support students in developing resilience and confidence.
- Foster a safe environment where open discussion about drugs is encouraged.

Medication & Special Medical Needs

- Students requiring regular medication must have an Individual Medical Action Plan approved by the School Nurse and parents.
- Prescribed medication may be administered during school hours under the supervision of trained staff and with parental consent
- Medication records will be maintained securely.
- On trips, a designated staff member supervises prescribed medication.

Random Bag Checks

- Random student bag checks will be conducted to reinforce safety and deter drug use.
- Bag checks will be:
 - Carried out respectfully and fairly.
 - Conducted in the presence of two staff members (one senior).
 - Where possible, the student concerned will be present.
- Any suspected substances will be:
 - Sealed, labelled, and documented.
 - Handed immediately to Dubai Police.
- Parents will be notified, and an incident report will be completed.

Support for Students

- Early Help and Rehabilitation will be prioritised over punishment where possible.
- The school counsellor and inclusion team provide confidential guidance and support.
- Parents will always be informed and involved when concerns arise.
- At-risk students will receive:
 - Counselling, wellbeing programmes, and referrals provided alongside disciplinary measures.
 - **Peer mentoring and workshops.**
 - **External referrals**, if needed.

Role of Parents

- Talk openly with your child about the risks of drugs and alcohol.
- Encourage healthy habits and balanced routines.
- Partner with the school by attending wellbeing workshops and awareness programs.

Staff Training

- Staff must not attend school under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- All staff will receive training on drug awareness, safeguarding, and incident management.
- Designated staff will receive training on handling evidence and reporting procedures.
- Specialist training will be provided to first aiders and staff responsible for administering medication.

Equal Opportunities

- Drug education will be accessible to all students regardless of ability, gender, nationality, or background.
- Lessons will respect cultural and religious sensitivities while ensuring compliance with UAE law.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The policy will be reviewed annually or as required by changes in legislation or UAE law or MoE/KHDA guidelines change.
- Regular reviews will be conducted by the Counsellor and Senior Leadership Team.
- Effectiveness will be evaluated through student feedback, staff reflections, and parent surveys.

External Partnerships

The school collaborates with:

- Dubai Police Anti-Narcotics Department for awareness campaigns.
- Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) for health education.
- KHDA/MoE wellbeing initiatives.
- Licensed NGOs and community organisations for counselling and parent support.

Together We Can

By working as a team – school, parents, and students – we can ensure that every child grows up safe, informed, and empowered to make the right choices.

For questions or concerns, please contact the School Counsellor / Head of Inclusion.

Regards,


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Prarthana Kale
Principal
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