

DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

ASHBURY SCHOOL



Together We Grow

To outline how we at Ashbury School work to prevent drug and substance abuse as well as how we as a school manage and support pupils who are involved in drug and substance abuse.

DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

The purpose and scope of this policy is to:

- 1.1 manage drug and substance abuse by the students on a consistent basis;
- 1.2 to help and support students who are abusing drugs or other substances;
- 1.3 to help and support staff and students who do not use drugs or abuse substances but who may be affected by the usage or abuse of others;
- 1.4 to help and support staff in assisting and supporting students with a drug or substance abuse problem;
- 1.5 to contribute towards effective prevention, management and treatment of drug use, misuse and dependency in Ashbury School.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

The principles underlying the policy are:

- 2.1 that the possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs is prohibited at school or any activity related to or sanctioned by the school;
- 2.2 the inappropriate possession, use or distribution of legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco is prohibited at school or any activity related to or sanctioned by the school;
- 2.3 that in all circumstances, ensure a supportive environment, ever mindful of the rights of students with drug dependency problems as well as the rights of other students, teachers and members of the school community;
- 2.4 that Ashbury school become a tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug-free zone;
- 2.5 to develop a safe and supportive school environment that values human dignity and celebrates innocence;
- 2.6 to educate the entire school community regarding drugs and the abuse thereof;
- 2.7 to provide teachers, particularly those working with drug related incidents, access to professional development opportunities;
- 2.8 to treat all information related to drug use, misuse or dependency by a student as confidential;
- 2.9 to inform and involve the parents/guardian of a student involved in use or misuse of drugs at the earliest possible opportunity in any attempts to assist the students.

PROCEDURES:

3. SEARCHES

- 3.1 Random searches may be conducted if:
- 3.2 The Head of school or his or her delegate may at random, search any student or group of students or the property of a student or group of students for any illegal substance if fair and reasonable suspicion has been established;
 - 3.2.1 that an illegal drug may be found on the school premises or during a school activity; or
 - 3.2.2 that one or more students on school premises or during a school activity are in possession of illegal drugs.

- 3.3 A search contemplated in section 3.2 may only be conducted after taking into account all relevant factors, including;
 - 3.3.1 the best interests of the student/s in question or any other student at the school;
 - 3.3.2 the safety and health of the student/s in question or of any other student at the school;
 - 3.3.3 reasonable evidence of illegal activity;
 - 3.3.4 all relevant evidence received.
 - 3.3.5 When conducting a search as contemplated in 3.2, the Head of school or his or her delegate must do so in a manner that is reasonable and proportional to the suspected illegal activity.
- 3.4 Where a search as contemplated in 3.2 entails a body search of the student in question, such a search may only;
 - 3.4.1 Be conducted by;
 - 1. the Head of school, if he or she is of the same sex as the student; or
 - 2. by the Head of school's delegate, who must be of the same gender as the student;
 - 3.4.2 be done in a private area, and not in view of another student;
 - 3.4.3 be done if one adult witness, of the same gender as the student is present; and
 - 3.4.4 be done if it does not extend to a search of a body cavity of the student.
- 3.5 Any illegal drug that has been seized must be;
 - 3.5.1 clearly and correctly labeled with full particulars, including;
 - 1. the name of the student in whose possession it was found;
 - 2. the time and date of search and seizure;
 - 3. an incident reference number;
 - 4. the name of the person who searched the student;
 - 5. the name of the witness; and
 - 6. any other detail that may be necessary to identify the item and the incident.
 - 3.5.2 recorded in the school's log book;
 - 3.5.3 handed over to the police to dispose of in terms of section 31 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No. 51 of 1977).
 - 3.5.4 The police officer who receives the drugs must issue an official receipt for it to the Head of school or his or her delegate.

4. DRUG SCREENING/TESTING:

- 4.1 As drug testing is by its very nature an invasion of privacy and may infringe on the constitutional and personal rights of a student, it will not be used as the first point of intervention.
- 4.2 The Head of school or his or her delegate may at random administer a urine or other non-invasive test to any group of students that is on fair and reasonable grounds suspected of using illegal drugs, after taking into account all relevant factors contemplated in section 3 of this policy.
- 4.3 A student contemplated in 4.2 may be subjected to a urine or other non-invasive test for illegal drugs only if;
 - 4.3.1 the test be conducted by a person of the same gender;
 - 4.3.2 is done in a private area and not in view of another student;

- 4.3.3 one adult witness, of the same gender as the student, is present;
- 4.3.4 The sample is clearly and correctly labeled with full particulars as contemplated in 3.5.1 of this policy, with the necessary changes; and
- 4.3.5 A device contemplated in subsection 4.5 of this policy is used.
- 4.4 The Head of school or his or her delegate must;
 - 4.4.1 within one (1) working day, if practicable, inform the parent that a random test or search and seizure was done in respect of his or her child; and
 - 4.4.2 inform the student and his or her parent of the result of the test immediately after it becomes available.
- 4.5 The Minister must;
 - 4.5.1 identify the device with which the test contemplated in 4.3 of this policy is to be done and the procedure to be followed; and
 - 4.5.2 publish the name of the device, and any other relevant information about it, in the Gazette.
- 4.6 The disciplinary procedure in respect to a student must be in terms of the school's Code of Conduct.
- 4.7 No criminal proceedings will be instituted against any student by the school in respect of a search contemplated in section three (3) or a test contemplated in section four (4) of this policy.

5. EDUCATION AND PREVENTION:

- 5.1 The objective of preventative education is to negate, counteract or delay the likelihood of experimentation with drugs by providing information about the dangers of their use and misuse, as well as to encourage those who are using to get the help they need.
- 5.2 Drug education which is included in the Life Orientation Curriculum ensures that students acquire age and context-appropriate knowledge and skills, in order for them to adopt and maintain life skills and behaviour that will protect them against drug use, misuse and dependency.
- 5.3 Where possible the school will involve outside agencies specializing in drug education and intervention to augment school based education.

6. TEACHERS:

- 6.1 Training is to be provided for all teachers on drug use, misuse and dependency management and support provided where appropriate.
- 6.2 In-service training is to be provided for teachers to cope with drug related incidents within the school.

7. INTERVENTION:

- 7.1 Each case will be considered on its individual merits taking into account;
 - 7.1.1 the nature of the incident;
 - 7.1.2 the student's school and family history;
 - 7.1.3 cultural background;
 - 7.1.4 mental health and intellectual ability; and
 - 7.1.5 any other relevant information.

- 7.2 The school will support students who want or need help through an approach that is both restorative and supportive.
- 7.3 A student or group of students who have experienced or are experiencing problems as a result of alcohol and drug use, misuse or dependency and accept treatment, will be entitled to appropriate assistance, and won't be denied the opportunity to receive an education or reintegration into the school community. However if such reintegration is deemed by the School's Board and school management to be detrimental to the safety and discipline of the school, the student will not be allowed to continue with schooling at Ashbury.
- 7.4 In cases where a student does not wish to make use of help offered to him or her or is found guilty of dealing in drugs, the school the school will have no choice but to take the necessary disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion as determined by the Disciplinary Code and Procedure.
- 7.5 The measures contemplated in 7.4 of this policy will be integrated into a structured intervention involving the student and the parent or guardian to encourage compliance, allowing the student to be suspended pending enrollment into an appropriate rehabilitation or relapse prevention programme.

8. REVIEW:

This policy will be reviewed biannually and adapted when and if necessary to reflect changed circumstances.

9. DEFINITIONS/GLOSSARY:

- 9.1 **Drug:** A substance that produces a psychoactive effect. In this policy the term drug is used generically to include tobacco and herbal cigarettes, alcohol, pharmaceutical drugs (prescribed over the counter), illicit drugs, image and performance enhancing substances and other volatile substances.
- 9.2 **Illicit/illegal Drugs:** A range of drug which the production, sale, possession and use of is prohibited. These drugs include but are not limited to amphetamine, cocaine, dagga, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, mandrax.
- 9.3 **Inhalants:** Substances inhaled for their effect such as glue, thinners, petrol, aerosol sprays, paint, solvents etc.
- 9.4 **Image and Performance Enhancing Drugs:** A range of substances, some illicit others not, used to enhance sporting or athletic performance or body image, such as anabolic steroids.
- 9.5 **Pharmaceuticals:** Prescription and over-the-counter drugs available from a pharmacy. It is illegal to possess or use some of these drugs without a prescription.
- 9.6 **Psychoactive Substances:** A psychoactive substance alters the way in which the body and/or the mind functions. It alters the way a person normally thinks, feels and behaves.
- 9.7 **Structured Intervention:** A controlled crisis where the user is confronted with the desperate reality of his or her situation and offered treatment.
- 9.8 **Reintegrated into the school community:** Procedures for reengaging and supporting students and teachers in school attendance following a drug related interruption to their education or career.

- 9.9 **Relapse:** When a person has been abstinent for a period and starts using drugs again.
- 9.10 **Relapse prevention:** Procedures to help a person in recovery from dependency to remain abstinent.
- 9.11 **School community:** Students, teachers and other school staff and parents parents/guardians.
- 9.12 **Random Drug Testing/Screening:** Picking people at random to be tested (usually urine) for the presence of drugs in the body.
- 9.13 **Experimentation:** First time or infrequent use.
- 9.14 **Use / Occasional Use:** Infrequent/occasional use.
- 9.15 **Misuse/ Problematic Use:** Regular, if infrequent, use with damaging consequences.
- 9.16 **Dependency/Addiction:** Loss of control. Continuing to use despite the harmful consequences.