



PRETORIA BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE POLICY

Introduction

The philosophy of the school is that, when dealing with serious anti-social matters such as substance abuse, the interests of the individual should be taken into account along with the public image of the school. Each case should be treated on individual merit according to the principles outlined below. The school will continue to be proactive with regard to substance abuse, educating students through the Life Orientation programme and through individual and group counselling.

The school will partner with parents in these matters as it is felt most strongly that the chances of addressing substance abuse effectively are enhanced if the school and home work closely together.

Guiding principles

The first step will be to put preventative measures in place with education programmes and open communication with parents. To pretend that substance abuse does not happen would be both a distortion of reality and an obstacle in the way of effective rehabilitation. For our community to speak openly about substance abuse and the dangers thereof would go a long way towards minimising the risk.

The second step should be corrective and/or rehabilitative by nature. If a boy is found to be abusing substances, his parents must be informed and professional therapy sought – either through the resources of the School or privately. All steps taken must be well documented should further action be required. Any agreements between the student and the School, or the parents and the School, must be recorded and signed by both parties.

The third step is punitive. If the previous two steps have had no effect and agreements have been broken, the School reserves the right to punish the student, either internally or through the Governing Body structures where suspension or expulsion could be the applied sanction.

Specific substances

It is not possible to list all substances individually under this policy. Substances that are referred to include all those that are illegal for children to use or have an intoxicating effect.

Alcohol

Alcohol abuse by students at the school is unacceptable. No student may consume alcohol in school uniform, at a school-related function, on the school grounds or while representing the school in any way. No student may bring alcohol onto the school grounds or to a school-related event.

Intoxicating drugs

Use of illegal drugs and abuse of legal drugs, or use of any other intoxicating substance is unacceptable. All such incidents will be dealt with in line with the guiding principles outlined above.

Supplying/dealing/selling or procuring illegal substances

If a student is involved in providing, selling, distributing, obtaining or passing on drugs or is otherwise encouraging other students to use drugs, the School may opt immediately for punitive sanction which could include expulsion from the School.

Senior pupils and illegal substances

If a senior pupil is influencing juniors to use illegal substances, the senior pupil will be dealt with more severely. Seniors have a responsibility to set a good example and abuse thereof will not be tolerated. Form V pupils in their final year must realise that these rules, along with all other school rules, apply to them until the time they leave the school – ie they leave after their final examination.

Boarders and illegal substances

Due to the high level of responsibility of teachers acting *in loco parentis* in the boarding houses, a more severe punishment could be meted out to boarders. This includes exclusion from the boarding facility for a period of time or expulsion therefrom.

Performance-enhancing drugs

The use of steroids (or any other substance that is banned by recognised sports bodies as enhancing sports performance) is strictly prohibited. If a student tests positive for performance-enhancing drugs, they will be banned from taking part in school sport (both internal sports programmes and against other schools) for a minimum period of six months. The student will be required to undergo a test, at his parents' expense, to show that he no longer has these substances in his system. During the six month ban, he will be required to perform community service in his chosen sport at school such as officiating and general assistance with the sport.

Testing for substances

The School has the right to test students for substances according to prescribed SA legislation, if fair and reasonable suspicion exists. The School undertakes to inform parents, as a matter of courtesy, when their child is tested and will inform the parent of the result of that test as soon as it is made available.

Test results will remain confidential between the school and the family concerned.

The School has the right to re-test a student if it is deemed necessary.

If a parent refuses permission for a student to be tested for performance-enhancing substances, no punitive measures will be put in place but the student may NOT take part in any sporting activity at the School nor represent the School in any sporting context.