

مدرسة الإمارات الدولية - ميدوز  
Emirates International School - Meadows



# Anti-Drug Policy

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| Authors         | Ian Ward       | Principal |
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## **Rationale**

Emirates International School Meadows (EISM) is committed to providing a safe, healthy and supportive learning environment. The misuse of narcotics, psychotropic substances or prescription medication poses serious risks to students' health, wellbeing and academic success and undermines the safety of the school community.

This policy aligns with the UAE National Programme for Drug Prevention (SIRAJ), international best practice and UAE Federal Law No. (14) of 1995 and its amendments. It aims to protect students, support families and equip staff to prevent, identify and respond effectively to drug-related concerns.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Prevent the possession, use or distribution of narcotics or psychotropic substances, and the misuse of prescription medication, within the school community.
- Develop students' knowledge, awareness and life skills so they can make healthy, informed choices.
- Define the responsibilities of staff, students and parents in preventing substance misuse.
- Ensure early identification, intervention and referral for students at risk.
- Ensure compliance with UAE laws relating to narcotics and psychotropic substances.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to:

- All students, staff, parents, contractors and visitors on the school campus or participating in school-related activities.
- All substances defined under UAE law as narcotics, psychotropic substances or controlled prescription medication.

## **Definitions**

- Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances: Natural or chemical substances that affect bodily functions and may cause dependence or addiction.
- Addiction: A chronic condition involving physical and/or psychological dependence on a substance.
- Prevention: Actions that reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors to prevent drug use.

## **Preventive Approach**

### **Awareness and Education**

- Provide age-appropriate awareness of the risks associated with drugs, smoking and substance misuse.
- Integrate drug-prevention education across the curriculum, where appropriate.
- Address common misconceptions about drugs and their effects.

### **Life Skills Development**

- Develop decision-making, problem-solving and coping skills.
- Develop strategies to resist peer pressure and make informed choices.
- Promote participation in sport, the arts, volunteering and healthy lifestyle choices.

### **Early Detection and Intervention**

- Train staff to recognise behavioural, physical and environmental indicators of possible substance misuse.
- Ensure confidential reporting and referral to appropriate school pastoral, counselling or medical staff.
- Provide supportive, non-stigmatising intervention, with referral to external services where necessary.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **School Leadership**

- Ensure this policy is implemented and monitored effectively.
- Liaise with relevant health, social and security authorities where required.

- Provide a safe and supportive school environment.

#### Teachers

Act as positive role models.

Remain alert to potential warning signs of substance misuse and report concerns through the appropriate school procedures.

Integrate age-appropriate drug-prevention education into learning where relevant.

#### Pastoral Team, School Doctor and Counsellors

- Assess and support students identified as being at risk.
- Provide counselling and develop appropriate intervention plans.
- Work with parents and relevant external services to support intervention and reintegration.

#### Students

- Follow school expectations and make safe, informed choices.
- Report concerns or suspicions to a trusted adult.
- Engage positively in school and community activities.

#### Parents

- Maintain open, supportive communication with their children.
- Remain aware of changes in behaviour, peer relationships and online activity that may indicate concern.
- Participate in awareness programmes and maintain close communication with the school.

### Legal Framework

- The use, possession or distribution of narcotics or psychotropic substances is strictly prohibited under applicable UAE law.
- Drug-related offences may carry severe penalties under UAE law.
- Where applicable under UAE law, individuals who voluntarily seek treatment may be eligible for protections from criminal prosecution.

### Support and Rehabilitation

- Students identified as being at risk or involved in substance misuse will be supported confidentially and, where appropriate, referred to recognised treatment or rehabilitation services.
- EISM will work closely with families and relevant professionals to support successful reintegration into school life.
- The stigmatisation of students receiving or returning from treatment is not acceptable.

### Preventive Education Standards

- Preventive education will be age-appropriate, structured and interactive, in line with relevant UAE requirements and school programmes.
- Education will focus on developing knowledge and skills through supportive, evidence-based approaches.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

EISM will monitor the effectiveness of this policy through:

- Staff training and awareness.
- Review of identified concerns, interventions and referrals.
- Student feedback and surveys on awareness and attitudes towards drugs.

The policy will be reviewed and updated as required to maintain alignment with UAE law, regulatory guidance and relevant best practice.

EISM is committed to preventing substance misuse through education, early intervention, appropriate support and partnership with students, families and relevant authorities. Our aim is to maintain a safe, supportive and drug-free learning environment for all.

**Links to Other Policies**

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Behaviour

Anti-Vaping, Smoking and Use of Tobacco

Electronic Addiction