

Drugs, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Policy

JOHANNESBURG MUSLIM SCHOOL

1. Policy on Drugs, Alcohol and Controlled Substances

- 1.1. The Board of Management has resolved that the Johannesburg Muslim School will remain an environment that is free from drugs, controlled and uncontrolled substances and alcohol.
- 1.2. It is the policy of the Johannesburg Muslim School that the use and abuse of drugs, alcohol, controlled substances, imitation controlled substances and non-controlled substances is unlawful in Islam. Learners who violate this policy will be severely disciplined.
- 1.3. A contravention of this Policy will be regarded as a very serious disciplinary matter. Learners who are found guilty of drug or alcohol related offences, whether on or off school premises under the auspices of the school, or whilst attired in school uniform, will be subject to sanctions which will include, amongst others, expulsion and criminal prosecution.

2. Aims of Policy

The aim of the Policy is to

- 2.1. ensure compliance with the laws of Islam where the use, abuse, possession, or sell of drugs, alcohol, controlled substances, imitation controlled substances and non-controlled substances is unlawful;
- 2.2. ensure compliance with the criminal laws of our country that it is an offence for any person to possess, use, distribute or sell controlled drugs;
- 2.3. increase the understanding and the implications of the use and misuse of drugs and alcohol, and the possible consequences thereof;
- 2.4. assist learners to develop the ability to reject peer pressure which may lead to, or force, a learner to experiment with drugs and alcohol;
- 2.5. actively discourage the use, abuse, possession, distribution or sale of drugs, alcohol, controlled

substances, imitation controlled substances and non-controlled substances;

- 2.6. make learners aware that the contravention of this Policy is a serious offence and may lead to the imposition of sanctions against the learner, which sanctions could include expulsion from school and the institution of criminal prosecution.

3. Drugs, Alcohol and Controlled Substances

- 3.1. No drugs, alcohol, controlled substances, imitation controlled and non-controlled substances may be brought onto the school premises.

- 3.2. No drugs may be brought on the school premises, except for drugs legally prescribed by a physician. Learners must inform the Principal of the School, and their form educator, of what prescription drugs they are using. Educators, who bring legally prescribed drugs onto the school premises must inform the Principal of what prescription drugs they are using.

4. Possession, distribution and use

- 4.1. Any learner or educator who is found in possession of, or who distributes or attempts to distribute, by sale or otherwise, or who uses any drugs (not prescribed by a physician), alcohol, controlled or non-controlled or any other dependence producing substances shall be guilty of an offence.

- 4.2. The possession and/or distribution, in any form or for whatever purpose, of any drugs or alcohol or other dependence producing substance is strictly prohibited. Any learner who is found in possession of, or who uses or consumes drugs and/or other dependence producing substances, will be suspended immediately. In such a case, the school shall consider expulsion, even at the first instance, and will also institute criminal prosecution against such a learner. A learner, in the company of others involved in such activities will likewise be held accountable and will be deemed to be acting with common purpose. Any learner who has information in respect of drugs and alcohol will be obliged to co-operate with the School in enforcing this policy and in the prosecution of the offending learners or other persons involved therein. The failure to co-operate will be regarded as a very serious offence, which will result in disciplinary action being taken and a sanction to be imposed, as determined by the Board.

5. Drug searches by police

- 5.1. The School retains the right to utilize the services of Law Enforcement Authorities in the detection of illegal drugs and/or contraband at any time, announced or unannounced. The Principal may

request that Law Enforcement Authorities be utilized to search all inside areas of the School building at a time when learners are/are not present. All searches may include the searching of learners and their possessions, provided that the standards of decorum for searching are maintained (females to search females and males to search males and in private). The Principal may request that Law Enforcement Authorities be utilized to search vehicles in the School parking lot or in other areas where learner vehicles are parked during or after school hours.

5.2. Any refusal to co-operate in respect of searches will constitute a contravention of this Policy and will be subject to sanction by the Board, in addition to it being handled by the Law Enforcement Authorities.

5.3. The school will take temporary possession of any illegal drugs and/or contraband found on school grounds, whether on a learner, in a vehicle, or any other place on school grounds, This is permitted in law. The substance will be placed in a suitable sealed container in the presence of a witness and handed to the Police or other Law Enforcement authority. The learner's parent/guardian shall be notified should illegal drugs and/or contraband be discovered.

6. Testing for drugs / alcohol and/or dependence producing drugs

The School reserves the right to test any learner for drug and/or alcohol abuse at any time and on a random basis. If there is reasonable suspicion that a learner is under the influence of illegal substances or alcohol, the learner may be sent for testing, at the parents'/ guardians' expense. Each learner shall make himself/herself available for such tests to be conducted at the instance of the Principal or his designate. The failure and/or refusal by the learner to make himself/herself available in this instance will result in disciplinary action being taken and a sanction will be imposed as determined by the Board.

7. The right to search

The School reserves the right to search any bag and the possessions of any learner at any time, either randomly or under reasonable suspicion that a problem may exist.

8. The Principles of Natural Justice

The School will, at all times, adhere to the principles of natural justice in that

8.1. the learner will not be pre-judged;

8.2. the procedures will be fair, unbiased and impartial;

- 8.3. measures will be taken to ensure the proper care of the learner;
- 8.4. all necessary investigations will be conducted;
- 8.5. the learner's parents and the learner will be given an opportunity to be heard;
- 8.6. the learner's parents and the learner will be warned that expulsion and criminal prosecution could be the consequences.