

YAS AMERICAN ACADEMY SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY AND GUIDELINES

1.0 STATEMENT OF POLICY

At Yas American Academy our community is committed to;

- the health and welfare of its students and will take action to promote and safeguard their wellbeing
- educating student's about the effects of drugs and alcohol and about the threats posed by them to present and future health and happiness
- encouraging student's in need of support to come forward and to educate others into acting and speaking in the best interests of those who might need help

2.0 POLICY AIMS

The college aims to deter the abuse of all drug substances by means of a balanced and informative educational programme, rooted in the schools values, and which places emphasis on the need and responsibility of young people to make informed decisions for themselves.

This will be achieved through:

- Education
- pastoral support for individuals
- support for family through the academic and pastoral elements of the curriculum
- the welfare and support staff and outside speakers
- promote understanding
- foster and encourage skills and strategies designed to resist drug and substance abuse
- help young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- ensure that the disciplinary rules of the school reflect the seriousness with which the school and the local community approaches potential problems in this area.

3.0 HOW THESE AIMS MAY BE FULFILLED

- YAA fulfils these aims through the development of its mission. This includes care, concern, teaching and leadership of its staff, through the provision of information via the wellbeing and pastoral curriculum/assembly programme and through a clear and effective behaviour and refocus codes.
- It is essential to inculcate in each individual student an awareness of the importance of individual values. Students will be given an opportunity to debate the issues concerning the use and abuse of drugs and substances and thereby increase their awareness of the hazards of drug and substance abuse.
- The school believes that it is a priority to promote and consolidate the self-esteem of every individual student.
- The studnet attaches great importance to effective communication with parents. Parents will be kept up to date by invitation to talks, and offered opportunities to consider the drugs and substances policy.
- The programme will be implemented and reviewed on an annual basis.
- WYA policies will emphasise the firm commitment of the college to the promotion and maintenance of an environment free from abuse of drugs and other harmful substances.

4.0 PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

- The vast majority of teenage/adolescent involvement with drugs and other substances occurs out of school, both in time and place, when children are the responsibility solely of their parents. Therefore, effective partnership between the school and parents is essential.
- Parents must feel that they are fully informed and involved in the school's practice with regard to drugs and substance abuse.

- It is important that parents are able and willing to support the school's policy.
- To promote this partnership, the school will ensure that parents receive full information about programmes for Personal, Social and Health Education (PHSE) via letter and in parental coffee mornings.

5.0 WORKING WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES

- The school is obliged to inform the Abu Dhabi Police of any breach of the law which comes to its attention.
- The school will notify the Abu Dhabi Police if students are found to be in possession of illegal drugs / smoking paraphernalia whilst in school.
- The school is obliged to involve Abu Dhabi Police and ADEK if a student(s) are required to leave or are excluded for a fixed term on account of known use of drugs/smoking or other illegal substances.
- The school will support and promote local health initiatives where they are soundly based and do not contravene the school's ethos or moral teachings.

6.0 CLARIFICATION OF COLLEGE RULES RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- The school regards the possession, sharing, bringing into school, distributing, sale, "pushing" or use of illegal drugs, smoking paraphernalia, solvents, on or off the school premises, as major disciplinary matters. Abu Dhabi Police will be informed.
- Any student found or suspected of being in the possession of, sharing, bringing into school, distribution, sale, "pushing" or use of illegal drugs or illicit drugs or solvents, on or off the college premises, should expect to be asked to leave the school and may be excluded permanently.
- ADEK and the YAA behaviour committee will be involved in a permanent exclusion
- Any other involvement in drugs, in or out of school, will bring into question the continued membership of the school by the student and may lead to a permanent exclusion.

6.1 ALCOHOL

- The bringing of alcohol into school, the selling of alcohol to other students, the consumption of alcohol within school and/or being under the influence of alcohol during the school day is forbidden.
- Any student suspected and/or proven to have breached this rule should expect to be asked to leave the school and may be excluded permanently.

6.2 PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

- The School Nurse must be aware of any prescription medication brought on to the School premises.
- Wherever possible the School Nurse should store and administer the medication.
- Any student suspected of abusing prescription medication will be excluded for a fixed term period.
- A repeat offence will lead to a permanent exclusion

6.3 TOBACCO

- The bringing of tobacco or tobacco-related products into school, the selling of such products to other student's, and/or the smoking of tobacco or tobacco-related products by student's is forbidden.
- Any student suspected of smoking or frequenting with a smoker on school property or while being identifiable as a member of the YAA school community may be excluded for a fixed term period.
- Persistent smoking will lead to permanent exclusion.
- The only circumstance likely to cause the school to consider mitigation/greater flexibility in areas of "zero tolerance" would be when the information concerning the offence derived primarily from information volunteered by the student involved or by his/her parents.

7.0 PROCEDURE

- The procedures followed will be in line with the School's procedures for dealing with major disciplinary incidents.
- These procedures respect the 'duty of care' for the individual as well as the wider community.
- Details of any drugs or substances abuse will be passed on to the Police and the student and family appraised of this fact.
- Where a decision is taken not to permanently exclude a student, a condition or conditions of reinstatement following a period of exclusion may be required on the part of the student and his/her parents.
- These might include;
 - a period of counselling in relationship to the student's problem
 - undertakings by parents to monitor and restrict the social activities of the student
 - The student will monitor the situation and provide support where possible.