

Guidelines for the care and prevention of addiction

Position of the school and initial observations

As stipulated in the student's Code of Conduct (Article 8 and 9), the consumption of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco is not acceptable in school property. This document focuses on tobacco, alcohol, and narcotics¹ addictions in order to avoid any disruption. Treatment of other potential addictions (Internet, laptops, video games etc...) will be considered separately.

Guidelines objectives

- 1) The main objective is to ensure the well-being, health, and safety of the school population as a whole, and handle incidents in the best interest of all parties involved by clarifying both the legal requirements and the corresponding actions.
- 2) The well-being of every student is our central concern, but it must be clear that the school will be intractable regarding any consumption, possession, and especially the sale or sharing of narcotics, and holds a "zero acceptance" attitude in this regard. The school will be particularly vigilant in this area, and will assess sanctions accordingly.

Responsibility

Staff members here have a fundamental responsibility. Therefore, every staff member **must act/react when they notice an incident relating to consumption (tobacco, narcotics, alcohol) and/or possession (alcohol, narcotics)**. He or she must inform management immediately.

Student support and training

It is necessary to organize adequate training for pupils to inform them about addiction and the risks involved in order to provide them with an untroubled education allowing them to express their full potential.

Education

Preventive education is more effective when it is part of a broader personal, social, and health education program that should start in primary school and continue into secondary. The earlier this awareness begins and the more regularly it is made available to students (respective of age), the more effective it will be, allowing young people to grow up constructively and trouble-free.

Our program includes and/or will include the following points:

¹ *The current situation (particularly in relation to narcotic addictions) is clearly improving as a result of policies in effect and actions taken since 2015, but this goes hand-in-hand with an obligation to persevere in order to avoid new deterioration.*

1) **Raising awareness regarding substance use and abuse.**

(Understanding the impact that images conveyed in the media have in relation to substance abuse and the stereotypes they reinforce; influence of others; messages conveyed by friends and the media about alcohol and narcotics)

2) **Understanding the effects and risks** associated with the use of legal and illegal substances; information on the types of legal and illegal substances as well as their effects; specific vocabulary etc.)

3) **Getting to know the law as well as the rules within the school.**

4) **Validation of students** abstaining from/refusing addictive behaviors. Learning to say "no" and to protest clearly when observing a transgression. (Positive solidarity, self-esteem, claiming the right to evolve in a HEALTHY environment.)

As a reminder, the 'Prevention Plan 2'² established in 2018-19, tested and refined since September 2015 in partnership with the APEEE, is implemented as follows:

- S2: Tobacco, alcohol.
- S3: Tobacco, alcohol, cannabis.
- S4: tobacco, alcohol, cannabis and other drugs.
- S5: meeting with an ex-addict.

This sequence is the one finalized between 2015-16 and 2018-19. It is subject to revision according to an optimized match with the development of children and adolescents.

- S4567: individual or small group meeting with a professional, according to demand and individual needs.

Information to parents about narcotics may be offered in consultation with the APEEE.

Standard rules

Our school has a number of rules that complement our anti-addiction policy, including the following:

- **Alcohol:** It is forbidden to bring alcohol to school. Students showing signs of alcohol consumption will be brought to the infirmary and their parents will be notified in order to pick them up. An appropriate penalty will be given.
- **Tobacco:** Smoking tobacco is forbidden on the school grounds. Smoking will be sanctioned by an appropriate penalty.
- **Narcotics:** The supply and/or consumption of narcotics is prohibited on the school grounds .

² *Similar approaches (on the dangers of the Internet, for example), are organized regularly for different levels, but will not be discussed here as explained in the preamble.*

We will deal below with the treatment of incidents related to narcotics offenses specifically, but it is understood that in case of consumption and/or supplying of alcohol the school will react sensitively and firmly to the observed behavior, in order to help the offending student(s) while preserving the peace of mind and well-being of the school community.

Incidents/offenses related to narcotics

An **incident** as referred to in this section may include one of the following situations, and will be qualified as an **infraction** once the facts are proven:

- Suspicion of being under the influence of a drug;
- Observation of drug possession in the school, or during a school trip or activity;
- Consumption of drugs by a student in the school grounds, or on a school trip or activity;
- Resale, supply, or distribution of narcotics in the school grounds, or on a school trip or activity ;
- Incitement to the consumption of tobacco, narcotics, or alcohol.

Procedures relating to narcotics

The main purpose of these procedures is the **preservation of the health and safety of the school community** and to respond to behavior contrary to the student Code of Conduct.

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school grounds, the first priority is his/her safety and that of the students around him/her.

If necessary, such situations may be handled as a **medical emergency**.

It will be a **systematic** process to call parents/legal representatives and inform the police.

On the other hand, if the school feels that the child is in danger, it may be necessary to call social services.

Procedures for specific circumstances are reiterated below:

- **Individuals in possession of drugs**

Any prohibited substance found in a student's possession on school grounds will be confiscated. In case of seizure of narcotics, the school will contact the police and will hand over the offending substance(s). The parents of the student will be informed as well as other professionals, if necessary (school psychologist, social services).

- **Support for students**

After taking the necessary measures to ensure the immediate safety of the pupils, their health and emotional needs will be taken into consideration. Support is available to provide a compassionate response to students in difficulty. Interventions will be considered if the school thinks that a student shows signs of any involvement with drugs, be it their own or those of a parent/legal representative.

Such interventions may include consultation and possible referral of the case to the relevant organization.

• **In the case of proven suspicion**, the school administration may involve the police for appropriate action in order to ensure a safe and healthy school environment.

Penalties specifically related to drugs.

Disciplinary measures can be found in the school regulations published on its website. The Head Advisor is responsible for handling incidents related to drugs, providing support, and liaising with external agencies. Our sanctioning policy is based on the following principles:

- 1) The school will always seek to respond appropriately to each individual case when selecting the appropriate response, keeping it educational and informative in nature as far as possible. Chosen from among a large selection of possible actions, it will be in proportion to the transgression, in the interest of the student, and will take into account the well-being and safety of all.
- 2) All incidents will be handled after an evaluation has been carried out and reported to the Director, who will possibly convene the Disciplinary Council where the verdict may go as far as final expulsion.
- 3) Appropriate support will be offered (to the extent possible) to those with an addiction problem.

Confidentiality

The school ensures that sensitive information will be processed with discretion in the adjudication and review of disciplinary matters and will be processed in compliance with legislation.

Development of procedure and communication

This procedure was developed by the Prevention Advisor, the Directorate and the CPE.

It was then reviewed, revised, and validated by a working group comprised of the staff mentioned above, as well as representatives of the various parties concerned (Students via CDE representatives, teachers, parents).

It is intended for students and aims to clarify the intentions of the school and the measures envisaged. It applies to the school grounds in their entirety. We will make sure that all staff and students are informed regularly of the whys and wherefores of this document.

As a reference, the scale of sanctions and measures envisaged will be as follows:

Fault /offense	Immediate action	Inform police	Official follow-up	Possible sanctions
Noticed in: school, on school trip * on school activity	(teacher/ advisor/ CPE)			
Being under influence of a drug (suspected)	Infirmery sends student home if suspicion confirmed.		Formal Interview with Secondary School Management Repeat offense(s): School Board of Directors	Secondary School Director, according to Art. 42B, Rgl EE. Days of suspension medical injunction; Disciplinary hearing if repeat offender.
Possession of drugs	Confiscation of substance. Call family, who should come as quickly as possible.	Yes - and substance is turned over to them.	Release to family possible. Report to Director. Possibly summons to Disciplinary Council	Decision of Disciplinary Council with sanctions up to and including permanent expulsion possible.
Consumption of narcotics	Confiscation of substance. Infirmery visit. Call family, who should come as quickly as possible.		Report to Director. Formal Interview with School Board of Directors.	Secondary School Director / Art 42B. Suspension or permanent expulsion possible.
Sharing or sale of narcotics	Confiscation of substance. Call family, who should come as quickly as possible.	Yes - substance turned over to them and filing of complaint for endangering the welfare of students.	Report to director. Formal Interview with School Board of Directors	Disciplinary Council Sanctions up to and including permanent expulsion possible. Legal proceedings also possible.
Incitement, (verbal, written, or via imagery) to use drugs.	Meeting w/ student. Inform family.		Meeting with parents. Request medical intervention if necessary.	Follow-up and individual meetings. School Community service related to Drug prevention.

*** School trip: immediate call to the family to pick up the student without delay.**