

Last Revision: 15 January 2023

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

This policy has been drawn up in order to confront the reality of substance abuse in a responsible and constructive manner. Where substance abuse occurs, it is important to note that we believe in the principle of **restorative justice** and that the School's aim is to intervene in situations of abuse and to change harming behaviour. However, it must be stressed that the School will always view the possession, exchange and use of tobacco, vaping, alcohol and illegal substance or related equipment and the abuse of legal substances, in a very serious light. This policy will apply at School, at School events or when a student is associated with the School.

This policy has been drawn up with our consideration of all discussions having taken place over a course of time. It needs to be read in conjunction with the School's Code of Conduct and other policy documents. The school will endeavour to review and adapt this policy, when necessary, in conjunction with its stakeholders.

### **STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES**

1. The School acknowledge that we are in partnership with parents to ensure the best for their children.
2. The School will always endeavour to ensure a safe environment, free of substance abuse, in which students will not be exposed to harmful substances.
3. The School realises that a wide variety of substances are available to students. We believe that substance abuse is harmful to an individual's normal development, and we encourage a healthy, substance-free life, in order for the student to reach their full potential.
4. It is part of our policy to support those students who seek/need help in this area and who are willing to accept the help that is offered.
5. The School will not tolerate the possession or use of prohibited substances.
6. Punitive measures will be taken, if students refuse help or the behaviour of a student does not change.

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The use of mood-altering or habit-forming substances by students (without a doctor's guidance) will not be tolerated.

Students may not:

1. use or possess prohibited substances e.g dagga/marijuana/cannabis (and related by-products), ecstasy, cocaine, etc.

2. use or possess prescribed/non-prescribed medication inappropriately e.g Ritalin, Panado etc.
3. use or possess tobacco, alcohol, or any substance that might be construed as mind-altering;
4. use or possess e-cigarettes or vaping devices.
5. use or possess substance-related equipment (e.g cigarette rollers, lighters and paper)
6. use or possess performance enhancing substances that are outlawed by various sporting controlling bodies.
7. be under the influence of alcohol or other substances
8. be involved in procuring, or in transacting in such substances.

The School recognises its responsibility to intervene if, in the School's opinion, a student's substance abuse outside school influences his or her health, achievement, behaviour or attendance; or if it is likely to influence other students negatively.

### **THIS POLICY APPLIES**

1. On all Theodor Herzl Schools premises connected to such schools, including but not limited to, the classrooms, recreational areas, sport fields, administrative areas, parking and access areas, passages and ablution facilities. These are all substance free zones.
2. At any Theodor Herzl Schools activities (for example: sports tours, Ripple tour, camps, outings, etc.)
3. When a student represents the School or is identified as belonging to the school.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

This policy recognises the following;

1. A student using the services of the school counsellor who will explain the conditions of confidentiality as prescribed by the Health Professional's Council, before giving counselling. As a result of the ethics of the counselling profession, there may well be circumstances in which the school counsellor will not pass on information to parents or teachers disclosed in the course of counselling.
2. In the event of a student informing a teacher about substance abuse by him/herself or another person, teachers are bound to disclose information, as the School has a legal and professional responsibility to inform parents.
3. The School reserves the right, where deemed necessary, to inform the student body of any situation involving transgressions of the Code of Conduct. However, the School will strive to protect the privacy and dignity of students in all circumstances.

## **ACTION GUIDELINES:**

Considering the magnitude of this problem in our society, the school encourages open communication in the best interest of the school community. Where a student appeals for help, the appropriate response by the school will be to refer the student for counselling, skills training and self-image support. The school's intention will always be to first educate and rehabilitate, before enforcing disciplinary action. In the event of suspected, confirmed or self-acknowledged substance abuse, the school reserves the right to act in terms of these guidelines and its disciplinary procedures as it deems appropriate.

1. Each case will be considered individually.
2. Each case will be dealt, with confidentiality.
3. Parents will be informed and involved in the event of suspicion of substance abuse by Mrs D'Arcy or Mr Kurz
4. Parents may be asked to arrange for an appropriate drug test (to be undertaken at the parent's expense) **and** to inform the school of the result **OR** parents may ask the school to assist with the process of testing for substance abuse. The school will share the result with parents as soon as the result is available.
5. In the case of a positive drug test;
  - The student will be informed of a disciplinary hearing.
  - During the disciplinary hearing the following needs to be established;
    - ✓ The school would determine innocence or guilt.
    - ✓ The school will factor in all mitigating and/or aggravating circumstances.
    - ✓ Take note when the substance abuse started.
    - ✓ Establish if the student is aware of the negative effect of substance abuse.
    - ✓ Note the student's willingness to change harmful behaviour.
6. An agreement will be drawn up after the hearing between the school, the student and the parents. The agreement will specify;
  - ✓ Treatment programme.
  - ✓ Counselling sessions.
  - ✓ What further testing will be carried out **or** be expected.
  - ✓ Sanctions
  - ✓ Consequences for any breach of this agreement.
7. **SANCTIONS**

Bearing in mind that each case will be dealt with individually, where disciplinary procedures are seen to be necessary by the school, the sanctions that may result include (but are not limited to) the following;

  - ✓ Detention
  - ✓ Presentation to the School Board
  - ✓ Community Service
  - ✓ Withdrawal from any leadership position.

- ✓ Withdrawal of rights and privileges, including sport, cultural and social activities which form part of the Theodor Herzl School offering.
- ✓ Internal Suspension; during Examination sessions the student will be expected to study at school.
- ✓ Exclusion from school.

**NOTES TO PARENTS:**

- A. Parents of all students are required to acknowledge to the Theodor Herzl School's Substance Abuse Policy. Parents must understand that the policy will be applied consistently, without any exceptions.
- B. Parents are invited to contact the School, if additional clarity on any aspect of the policy is required.
- C. As of 18 January 2023 the abovementioned policy will be effective and fully operational in all respects.

**SIGNED AT** \_\_\_\_\_ **ON THE** \_\_\_\_\_ **AS** \_\_\_\_\_  
**INDICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE ABOVEMENTIONED SUBSTANCE  
ABUSE POLICY OF THE THEODOR HERZL SCHOOLS.**

**Parent signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT(S) OF STUDENT AS REFLECTED BELOW.**

**STUDENT DETAILS:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of student:** \_\_\_\_\_