

**DRUG PREVENTION POLICY**

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| <b>Introduced:</b>   | <b>September 2024</b> |
| <b>Next Review :</b> | <b>August 2026</b>    |

**1. INTRODUCTION**

At Dunes International School, the health, safety, and well-being of all students, staff, and community members are of paramount importance.

The school is committed to maintaining a **drug-free learning environment** that upholds the laws of the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and the ethical standards of the **Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK)**.

This policy outlines the school's stance on the prevention, prohibition, detection, and management of any form of drug use, possession, distribution, or influence within the school community. It reflects the values of safety, responsibility, respect, and integrity and supports the UAE Government's commitment to promoting a healthy, drug-free society.

**2. PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure compliance with **Federal Law No. (30) of 2021 on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances** and **ADEK health and safety policies**.
- Promote a safe, secure, and drug-free school environment for all students and staff.
- Provide clear guidelines for prevention, identification, and response to incidents involving drugs.
- Educate students about the risks and consequences of drug use and abuse.
- Encourage early intervention, counselling, and rehabilitation in cases where students or staff are affected.
- Ensure that all school decisions align with ADEK's safeguarding and student well-being framework.

**3. SCOPE:** This policy applies to:

- All students, staff, contractors, visitors, and volunteers within Dunes International School premises.
- All school-related activities, including field trips, competitions, events, and school transport.





## 4. POLICY STATEMENT

### 1. Zero Tolerance:

Dunes International School maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards the use, possession, distribution, or being under the influence of illegal drugs, narcotics, alcohol, or controlled substances on school premises or during school activities.

### 2. Legal Compliance:

The school strictly adheres to UAE federal laws and ADEK guidelines concerning the prevention and control of drug use and related offenses.

### 3. Prevention and Education:

The school will regularly conduct awareness sessions, workshops, and counseling programs to educate students on the dangers of substance abuse and promote healthy lifestyles.

### 4. Confidentiality and Support:

The school recognizes the importance of confidentiality and will handle all cases related to drug incidents **with discretion, sensitivity, and fairness** while prioritizing student safety and rehabilitation.

### 5. Reporting and Responsibility:

- Any suspicion or evidence of drug-related behavior must be immediately reported to the School Principal or the Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- The school will report serious cases to ADEK and relevant UAE authorities as required by law.
- Parents or guardians will be notified immediately if a student is found or suspected to be involved in any drug-related incident.

## 5. PREVENTION AND EDUCATION STRATEGIES:

To promote awareness and prevention, Dunes International School shall:

- Integrate drug education into the curriculum as part of Health and Moral Education.
- Conduct regular awareness programs in collaboration with ADEK and local health authorities.
- Encourage open communication between students, parents, and staff regarding health and safety issues.
- Display anti-drug awareness materials and provide access to counseling support for students in need.
- Train staff to identify early warning signs of substance misuse and respond appropriately.



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**6. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING INCIDENTS:** When a suspected or confirmed drug-related incident occurs:**1. Immediate Response:**

- The staff member who witnesses or suspects the incident must report it to the Principal **or** Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) immediately.
- The student involved shall be removed from the immediate environment for safety.

**2. Investigation:**

- The school administration will conduct a confidential and impartial investigation.
- Written records of the incident, findings, and actions taken will be maintained.

**3. Parent Notification:**

- Parents or guardians will be informed at the earliest opportunity and involved in discussions about next steps.

**4. Referral and Reporting:**

- The school shall notify **ADEK** and, where required, the Abu Dhabi Police or National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC).
- If the case involves a student in possession of illegal substances, it will be referred to the relevant authorities as per UAE law.

**5. Disciplinary Action:**

Depending on the severity of the offense, the following actions may be taken:

- Written warning or suspension.
- Mandatory counseling or rehabilitation.
- Expulsion in cases of serious violation, following ADEK approval.

**6. Counselling and Rehabilitation:**

- The school prioritizes rehabilitation over punishment for first-time or minor offenses.
- The student may be referred to professional counseling services or to the National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) for support.

**7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- **Principal:** Ensure overall implementation of the policy and liaison with ADEK and external agencies.
- **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO):** Lead awareness initiatives, manage incident response, and maintain records.
- **Teachers and Staff:** Monitor student well-being and report any suspicions promptly.
- **Parents/Guardians:** Support the school's policy, cooperate during investigations, and reinforce anti-drug values at home.
- **Students:** Abide by school rules, participate in awareness programs, and act as responsible members of the school community.



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**8. CONFIDENTIALITY AND RECORD KEEPING**

- All information related to drug incidents shall be kept strictly confidential and stored securely.
- Records shall be shared only with authorized ADEK representatives or relevant legal authorities as required.

**9. COMPLIANCE AND REVIEW**

- This policy is implemented in accordance with ADEK's Health, Safety, and Safeguarding regulations and Federal Law No. (30) of 2021 on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances.
- Dunes International School will review and update this policy every two years or as directed by ADEK or changes in UAE legislation.
- Non-compliance will result in disciplinary action in line with ADEK regulations and UAE federal law

## Amendments:

| Prepared By               | Date           |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Health and Safety Officer | September 2024 |

| Reviewed By  | Date           |
|--|----------------|
| Academic Vice Principal/Social Worker/School Counselor | September 2024 |

| Approved By                       | Signature |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Mr. Paramjit Ahluwalia, Principal |           |



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