



ZERO TOLERANCE DRUG POLICY

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The national policy on the management of drug abuse by learners in public and independent schools and further education and training institutions, published under GenN 3427 in GG 24172 of December 2002, stipulates that:

“The possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs, and the inappropriate possession, use or distribution of legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, is prohibited in South African school and this message should be delivered clearly and consistently within our school communities”.

The Ministry therefore declared all South African schools as tobacco-, alcohol- and drug free zones. The governing body of Vaalpark High School approved a ZERO TOLERANCE policy against the distribution and/or possession and/or use of banned substances.

It is important to distinguish between illegal drugs and legal drugs. Remember! BOTH these types of drugs are classified as “banned substances” in Vaalpark High School.

- **ILLEGAL DRUGS** include:

1. Amphetamine (AMP)
2. Cocaine en Crack (COC)
3. Dagga or Hemp (THC) – Take note! This substance is STILL illegal in schools following the court ruling of judge Zondo, as communicated on 8 Augustus 2019 by the Department of Education.
4. Methamphetamine (MET)
5. Opiates (OPI) (Such as morphine; heroine and codeine)
6. Methadone (MTD)
7. LSD
8. Mescaline
9. Psilocybin
10. Anabolic steroids
11. Inhalants (solvents; gases; nitrides)
12. Club drugs like: methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), Flunitrazepam and Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB)
13. Dissociative drugs: Ketamine; PCP and Analogs; Salvia Divinorum; Dextromethorphan (DXM)

- LEGAL DRUGS include:
 1. Any type of alcohol
 2. Any type of tobacco products
 3. Juices and oils of any type that can be smoked by means of a “vape” or any similar device
 4. Any bulk medication without a doctor’s prescription, such as bottles of cough mixture, boxes of pain killers or “lean”.

This policy dictates that:

1. a learner found in possession of any ILLEGAL DRUGS

- will be suspended immediately and will have to appear before the governing body for a disciplinary hearing. Such a learner will face possible expulsion;
- a learner will be tested for illegal substances if she / he displays any physical-, behavioral-, emotional- and social indicators to this effect;
- should a learner test negative, the school will carry the cost of the drug test and no further corrective action will take place;
- should a learner test positive:
 - the parent/guardian will be notified immediately and full details of the results will be disclosed to the parent / guardian;
 - the parent / guardian will carry the cost of the test;
 - the learner must leave the school immediately and may not return unless he/she is “clean” and drug free (this process takes approximately 4 weeks / 28 days - since this is how long drugs stay in one’s system);
- a learner who tests positive, may be re-tested at any time should there be a suspicion that he / she is using drugs again;
- should a learner test positive for a second time, such a learner will appear before the governing body for a disciplinary hearing and will face possible expulsion

2.a) LEGAL banned substances (tobacco products and “vapes”): if a learner is found to be in possession or under the influence of any of the above-mentioned LEGAL banned substances,

- the substances will be confiscated and destroyed (“vapes” included);
- the learner will receive demerits accordingly.

If a learner is found to be in possession or under the influence of the above-mentioned substances for the second time,

- the learner’s parent / guardian will be notified immediately;
- the substances will be confiscated and destroyed (“vapes” included);
- the learner will receive demerits accordingly.

If a learner is found to be in possession or under the influence of the above-mentioned substances for the third time,

- the learner’s parent / guardian will be notified immediately;
- the substances will be confiscated and destroyed (“vapes” included);
- the learner will be suspended for a period of 5 days.

If a learner still does not comply with the regulations after corrective measures have been taken, such a learner will have to appear before the disciplinary committee of the governing body and he / she will be subject to the sanctions imposed by the committee.

b) LEGAL banned substances (alcohol and medication without prescription): if a learner is found to be in possession or under the influence of any of the above-mentioned LEGAL banned substances,

- the learner's parent / guardian will be notified immediately;
- the substances will be confiscated and destroyed;
- the learner will receive demerits accordingly;
- the learner will be suspended for a period of 5 days.

If a learner is found to be in possession or under the influence of the above-mentioned substances again,

- the learner's parent / guardian will be notified immediately;
- the substances will be confiscated and destroyed
- such a learner will have to appear before the disciplinary committee of the governing body and he / she will be subject to the sanctions imposed by the committee.

Please take note that we consider this ZERO TOLRANCE policy as very serious and no exceptions will be made for any learner, regardless of the reason. We want to appeal to you to please give your full co-operation in this regard. It is everybody's responsibility to ensure that our children enjoy the freedom to complete their school career in a safe, drug-free environment.

STEPS WHEN TESTING FOR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES:

1. If there is a suspicion that a learner might be under the influence of a banned substance, a urine test will be performed on such a learner.
2. The learner will be tested by the principal or a person of the same sex as the learner, delegated by the principal.
3. A person of the same sex must always accompany the learner and the tester as a witness.
4. All test devices must always be locked up safely.
5. Tests must be done out of sight.
6. The person performing the test must always wear rubber gloves.
7. The test devices must be sealed and expiry dates checked on the packet.
8. The test device must be opened in front of the learner and the learner's name, grade as well as the date must be written on the device.
9. The learner is asked if he / she is on any medication, as this will have an effect on the interpretation of the results.
10. The test is performed according to the instructions on the leaflet found inside the test device.
11. The result is communicated and explained to the learner.
12. If the result is positive, the parent / guardian is notified immediately and the "ZERO TOLERANCE" drug policy is enforced.