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## **The King's School Linbro Park Substance Abuse Policy**

**This Policy has an attachment regarding acknowledgement. No enrolment at KSLP is considered final without signature of acknowledgement.**

### **1) General viewpoint of The King's School Linbro Park:**

Substance Abuse is a growing problem and impacts the lives of many young people and we realise that our school is no exception. Adolescents face an increasing number of threats and challenges to both their code of values and to their right to freedom of choice. Among certain groups of young people, the abuse of substances is perceived as being socially acceptable. In addition, the ready availability of drugs, combined with natural curiosity and so-called "peer pressure", can result in children making decisions which could have negative and long-lasting effects on their lives.

The National and Regional Education Departments insist that schools initiate effective and sustainable substance abuse policies, and the Government Notice No 1040, South African Schools Act (84/1996), declares all schools drug free zones. For these reasons, the management and staff of The King's School Linbro Park wish to create for all a safe and drug free environment that is beneficial to all. Therefore, The King's School Linbro Park has introduced this policy to address this issue.

We will endeavour to assist learners who experience problems relating to substance abuse. Our emphasis will be on creating an environment where our learners can receive assistance. However, we are also responsible for the safety of our whole school and we will initiate disciplinary measures where and when required to deal with repeat offenders and people found in possession of illegal substances. Each case will be dealt with on its own merits, but we do present a basic guideline in this document of the policies with regards intervention strategies. This document can and will be changed and adapted as time progresses if required.

### **2) Mission:**

The vision of The King's School Linbro Park is to provide a Christ-centred environment that enables every child to access his or her full potential. The abuse of substances poses a threat to the environment of the school and to the ability of individual learners reaching their full potential. The motivation for this policy is to create a safe and secure environment with definite direction for all learners, staff and parents to assist with preventative education strategies. The policy includes definitive guidelines for intervention strategies for people who have been identified as either drug or alcohol abusers. This policy is for the benefit of the whole school community and endeavours in all situations to help support and aid in the rehabilitation process of individuals abusing substances. The emphasis is, therefore, on assistance and not on punitive strategies, however disciplinary measures will be exercised with repeat offenders and or people caught in possession or dealing on the school premises. The assistance is available to all and the responsibility lies with the individual to make use of these resources, failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures. The policy will therefore assist with the following:

**Learners:**

- It will help create a safe environment for education at the school.
- It will lay down definitive boundaries.
- It will highlight consequences of choices made.
- It will give definitive procedures for all so there can be no misunderstanding as to what the individual and the school should do in situations where substance abuse has been identified.

**Parents:**

- It will give parents clear information with regards strategies to be followed by the school should their child be identified abusing substances.
- It will create a platform for a united front to be developed between educators, learners and parents alike to address the issue of substance abuse.
- It will highlight strategies with regards education and prevention programmes for parents.

**Educators:**

- It will help ensure consistency in dealing with substance abuse.
- It will inform prevention and education strategies.
- It will be a policy that is realistic, sustainable and easy to enforce.

**3) Implementation and sustainability:**

The policy will be enforced through the authority structures already in place in the school and all staff and leaders within the school must be dedicated to the process and be seen to be enforcing the policy. The structured interventions described in this policy will be implemented and must be adhered to consistently.

The whole school community must be made aware of the policy, and all learners and their parents must sign it upon the learner's acceptance into the school under the school's code of conduct of which this policy forms part. All parents are invited to assist the school with counselling, patrolling and sustaining the policy.

The prevention campaigns must be proactive and effective. Knowledge of the contents of the policy will be examined as part of the life orientation curriculum.

**4) Policy:**

The approach of The King's School Linbro Park to the issue of substance abuse is three-fold. The approach includes (a) prevention and education, (b) initial intervention, and (c) structured intervention.

**4.1) Prevention and education:**

Our first approach will be one of prevention education. The school undertakes to **educate** (through guidance lessons, life skills), to **inform** (using outside speakers, exhibitions) and to **guide and support** (through counselling, peer-counselling). These actions, however, are intended to supplement (not replace) the responsibility of parents or guardians in educating, informing, guiding and supporting their child(ren) in relation to the abuse of substances.

Substance Abuse forms part of the Life Orientation curriculum so an annual strategy must be adopted to address this subject adequately. This could include the use of:

- Outside organisation that specialise in this field.
- Projects and work assignments on Substance Abuse.
- Course tests on the subject.

Visual aids around the school like posters and multi-media tools will be utilised and learners will be encouraged to take advantage of information on the Internet related to Substance Abuse.

A peer-helper/counsellor initiative within the student body gives learners the opportunity to seek help from trusted and informed peers. Where necessary support groups among learners will offer assistance in dealing with Substance Abuse related issues. And all learners will be expected to display concern for one another – approaching correct channels if concerned about another.

Educators will be assisted in making themselves more knowledgeable on the subject of Substance Abuse. They may consider giving assignments on the topic in all learning areas including research, presentations, projects, orals, informal discussions, debates and or dramas. And they must remain both vigilant and approachable at all times.

#### **4.2) Initial Intervention:**

The school forbids the following:

- The possession and use of any illegal substances.
- The misuses of any prescribed or over the counter pharmaceutical medication. (The school office must be informed if any learner needs to bring prescription drugs to school. Learners may not bring more than one day's dosage to school)
- The use of any solvents, inhalants or any other chemical substances.
- The possession and use of any cigarettes and or other illegal drugs.
- The possession and use of alcohol.
- The possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Dealing in any substances that can be deemed as harmful to any member of the school.

This policy is in effect:

- For any member of the school community
- Anywhere on the school property.
- During school functions, outings or any other school activity.
- When members of the school community are representing the school.
- When a member of the school community can be identified as a member of the school.
- When use of the substance affects the performance of an individual at school or during any school function.

Contravention of above-mentioned stipulations will result in one or more of the following:

- Disciplinary measures which could include warnings, suspension or expulsion.
- Initiation of a rehabilitation action plan.
- The drawing up of a contract between all affected parties.

The Education Act has been argued as being a legitimate search warrant in itself, and includes the “obligation” to search under obvious restrictions pertaining to indiscriminate testing and the reservation of rights such as privacy and dignity.

The following parameters pertain:

- Evidence of abuse exists
- In order to assist rehabilitation
- Behaviour indicates reasonable suspicion of drug abuse
- School discipline is threatened
- With parental consent

Any single legitimate reason is sufficient to exercise the obligation inherent in the Act.

Drug screening or testing has been found to have a legitimate role in a school's substance abuse prevention measures. Random drug testing will, therefore, take place periodically at The King's School Linbro Park. In addition, testing of specific individuals will be considered if it is "in the child's best interest" and if a reasonable amount of indicators exist. Drug testing may also form part of a structured intervention or relapse prevention program, and be carried out according to school policy, medical/treatment procedures and ethical guidelines at a clinic or doctor nominated by the school governing body. All testing will be implemented in an environment that is committed to safeguarding personal rights relating to privacy, dignity and bodily integrity. Costs incurred through testing as part of a structured intervention or relapse prevention program will be the responsibility of the individual's parents, as will any cost incurred where a learner is tested positive within the random testing process.

Random searches of individuals may also be carried out. In addition, searches of specific individual learners may be carried out if there is reasonable suspicion that the learner is in possession of a prohibited substance or as part of a structured intervention. Should a search be necessary, it will be carried out by persons of the same gender and will take place in the presence of the learner concerned, a person of their choice to support them and a second witness of the same gender. The learner will be given the opportunity of searching his/her own property in the presence of the above-mentioned witnesses. The right to search under such circumstances is enshrined in the Act, and the Principal or his designated staff member may elect to search possessions and/or a learner. If the learner refuses to submit to the search, then the parents may be called in to effect the search. If the learner and parents refuse to submit to the search, then the police may be called upon to effect the search.

**It must be noted that should any refusal to reasonable search or testing be experienced, the school will treat the individual(s) as "guilty" and apply sanction as same.**

#### **4.3) Structured Intervention:**

Each case will be considered on its individual merits.

The school has defined three major strategic intervention models, and as situations differ, so will the intervention strategy as required:

##### **Intervention on request for assistance:**

This process will not be punitive should initial co-operation be continued. A drugs screening test will still be done. A written agreement will be entered into between the individual, school and parents. This agreement may change from situation to situation. Regular drug testing will be instituted as part of a relapse prevention programme. Individual counselling will be scheduled with a counsellor from the school staff and/or an outside professional nominated or agreed to by the school management. In some instances, attendance of a rehabilitation centre may be required. If the individual continues to abuse substances or does not make full use of resources required of him/her or if he/she does not co-operate, usual punitive disciplinary measures for substance abuse will be applied.

##### **Intervention procedures for individual suspected of substance abuse:**

This hinges on obligated action by the school. A learner may elect to confess use up to immediately prior to testing. Parents/guardians will be informed and may be called in for a consultation with the management of the school. If the individual admits to use of substances, then the process described for *Intervention on request for assistance* will be followed, inclusive of a confirmatory drugs test that the school deems non-negotiable.

##### **Intervention procedure - dealing in illegal substances:**

In all cases of this nature, local law enforcement officials will be included in the proceedings. The parents of the individual will be called in for consultation with the school and with the

relevant SAPS authorities. In all cases learners will be subject to the disciplinary code that recommends expulsion, albeit that a learner and his/her parents may wish to undergo the due process of a Disciplinary Hearing should they so prefer, or believe that an alternative may be offered.

#### **5) Staff members, parents, volunteers and guests**

The school is a drug and alcohol free zone at all times. No staff member, parent, volunteer, or visitor may consume alcohol or drugs not prescribed by a physician, on school premises, or when in the presence of learners. No educator, parent, volunteer or staff member responsible for the transportation or supervision of learners may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs (prescribed or not prescribed). The sale and supply of alcohol and drugs to minors is illegal. Legal and disciplinary steps will be taken against offenders selling or giving drugs or alcohol to minors. Educators, staff or volunteers who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs and who attend school or school functions where minors are present will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

#### **6) Conclusion**

The King's School Linbro Park Substance Abuse Policy is for the benefit of all parties concerned. The aim of the policy is to assist, educate and guide learners on the issue of the abuse of substances. The school will assist in the rehabilitation efforts of learners if and where necessary.

No member of the school community or visitor to the school is exempt from the consequences spelt out in this policy. It is the responsibility of the learner and parents to familiarise themselves with the contents of this policy.

## 7) Definitions:

- **Drug:** A substance that produces a psychoactive effect. In this policy the term drug is used generically to include tobacco and herbal cigarettes, alcohol, pharmaceutical drugs (prescribed and over the counter), illicit drugs, image and performance enhancing substances and inhalants and other volatile substances.
- **Illicit/illegal Drug:** A range of drugs which the production, sale, possession and/or use of is prohibited or controlled under circumstances not pertaining to their then application. These drugs include but are not limited to amphetamine, cocaine, dagga, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, mandrax.
- **Inhalants:** Substances inhaled for their effect such as glue, thinners, petrol, aerosol sprays, paint, solvents etc.
- **Image & Performance Enhancing drugs:** A range of substances, some illicit, others not, but their application being deemed by age criteria or sporting codes, used to enhance sporting or athletic performance or body image, such as anabolic steroids.
- **Pharmaceuticals:** Prescription and over the counter drugs available from a pharmacy. It is illegal to possess or use some of these drugs without a prescription, or to use them outside of the parameters of a legal prescription.
- **Psychoactive Substance:** A psychoactive substance alters the way in which the body and/or mind functions. It alters the way a person normally thinks, feels and behaves.
- **Structured Intervention:** A controlled crisis where the user is confronted with the desperate reality of his or her situation and offered treatment.
- **Reintegration into the school community:** Procedures for (re)engaging and supporting learners and educators in school attendance following a drug related interruption to their education/career.
- **Relapse:** When a person has been abstinent for a period and starts using drugs again.
- **Relapse prevention:** Procedures to help a person in recovery from dependency to remain abstinent.
- **School community:** Learners, educators and other school staff including Governing Bodies and parents/guardians
- **Random drug testing/screening:** Picking people at random to be tested (usually urine) for the presence of drugs in the body
- **Experimentation:** First time or infrequent use
- **Use/occasional use:** Infrequent/occasional use
- **Misuse/Problematic use:** Regular, if infrequent, use with damaging consequences
- **Dependency/Addiction:** Loss of control. Continuing to use despite the harmful consequences.

**KSLP SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY:**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARAMETERS**

**Please note that no enrolment at KSLP is final or binding on the school's part unless the relevant parties sign this acknowledgement.**

I/we PARENTS / LEGAL GUARDIANS of the undersigned prospective learner at TKSLP hereby acknowledge the stipulations and content of the school's Substance Abuse Policy and hereby consent to the relevant lawful random testing and/or searching therein outlined.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ PUPIL [Grade 7 upwards]