



Substance Abuse Policy

ACADEMIC SESSION 2014/15

Preamble/Rationale

Premier Academy recognizes that Substance Abuse is a major impediment to students realizing their full potential in academic, sporting, creative, and moral development.

Premier Academy, acting upon the expectation of the Community and of parents that the school provides the most conducive learning environment, recognizes that unless the school and its students are safe from the trafficking and/or consumption of drugs and banned substances, optimum conditions for learning will not exist.

The trafficking and/or use of drugs and banned substances is a criminal offence and Premier Academy will not aid the concealment of any offence committed by students on the school campus. Consequently, any student suspected or found to have committed an unlawful or criminal act is liable to be reported to the appropriate authorities. The consequences arising from such action will not be the responsibility of Premier Academy.

Policy Application

All students of Premier Academy.

This policy will also apply to students who are on any off campus school event such as trips, excursions, functions.

Policy

It is the policy of Premier Academy to promote and maintain a safe, healthy, and productive school environment – a ‘Safe harbour’ free from the use of drugs and banned substances, for the benefit of its students and the community at large.

Premier Academy considers the use of drugs and banned substances to be a very serious issue and attaches great importance to its commitment to maintain a school environment free from such substances, and the school campus will continue to be a Drug Free Zone.

Therefore:

- 1) The distribution, dispensing, possession, use of or consumption by any student of Premier Academy of any drugs and/or banned substances including alcohol, illicit drugs, narcotics or any similar intoxicant is strictly prohibited. The school has a ‘Zero tolerance’ policy towards substance abuse. Any student violating any part of this policy is subject to serious disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school.
- 2) The School shall uphold that Students may not possess, consume or distribute drugs or alcohol in any form while at school, in co-curricular and extracurricular programs, on school grounds, at school-related functions on or off campus, and while coming to and going from school.
- 3) The School recognises that parents and teachers have a role to play in providing guidance and open communication to students about the use and effects of Substance Abuse. Being drug-free takes more than “just saying no.” We must teach our students to **know**, and how to say **no**. It takes time and effort; it involves everyone the student relates to: teachers, administrators, staff and most importantly, parents. After all, parents are a child’s first and most important teachers. We encourage parental involvement as much as possible.
- 4) The School makes every effort to prevent student involvement with drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other harmful behavioural/health concerns by providing age appropriate education, programs and supportive counselling through the following programs:
 - a) Pastoral lessons
 - b) Year Group Assemblies
 - c) Pastoral trips
 - d) Peer Mentoring
 - e) Peer Counselling
- 5) The School continues to develop programs and to implement procedures for the purpose of assisting students who experience problematic drug or alcohol use. It is the school’s intention to use the disciplinary sanction of this policy as a means of helping students

recover from the debilitating effects of substance abuse. It is in this spirit that the development and enforcement of this policy is intended.

- 6) The term “Drug” as used in this policy refers to: all controlled dangerous substances as defined by law in Kenya and by NACADA; any chemical or chemical compound which releases vapour or fumes causing a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stratification, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; and alcoholic beverages, tobacco, anabolic steroids, “designer drugs,” and any substance improperly used for the purpose of an altered physical or mental state.
- 7) The School has listed the following as banned substances. These include but are not limited to:
 - a) Alcohol
 - b) Tobacco and Tobacco Products
 - c) Shisha Pens
 - d) Marijuana
 - e) Heroin
 - f) Cocaine
 - g) Khat/Miraa
 - h) LSD/Ecstasy
 - i) Inhalants and Solvents
 - j) Any Drug Paraphernalia
- 8) All the above listed substances have harmful physiological, psychological and behavioural effects on the body. Drug abuse at any age can cause serious health effects, but teenagers who abuse drugs are at particular risk for negative consequences. Teenagers who abuse drugs are more likely to struggle with addiction later in life and have permanent and irreversible brain damage which includes learning problems. Drug abuse damages short-term and long-term memory and can lead to problems with learning and memory later in life..

Prevention and Intervention Procedures

Part 1

STUDENTS SUSPECTED OF HAVING INGESTED OR BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS

- 1) Any professional staff member to whom it appears that a student may be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs on school property or at a school function shall report the matter as soon as possible to the appropriate Pastoral Coordinator.

- 2) The student shall be taken to a protective environment for observation, i.e. an isolation room and monitored by the First-aid team at the school, until the student can be taken to the School's registered Physician for a medical examination and chemical screening. By state law, this examination must take place within 24 hours of the incident being reported.
- 3) The student will NOT return to school pending the results of the chemical screening. This is not a suspension from school, but a "medical exclusion" until results are confirmed.
- 4) Upon receipt of the results, the school Principal and Pastoral coordinators will meet with the student's parents/guardians and discuss the results.
 - a) If the written report of the medical examination verifies **NEGATIVE RESULTS**, that alcohol or other drugs do not interfere with the student's physical and mental ability to perform in school:
 - i) the student shall be immediately returned to school.
 - ii) the student will receive a written apology from the school.
 - iii) the student may seek counselling from the School Counsellor.
 - iv) the school will pay the cost of the medical examination and chemical screening.
 - b) If the written report of the medical examination verifies **POSITIVE RESULTS**, that the student is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs:
 - i) the parents will be asked to withdraw the student from school, as this is a major offence and will result in an immediate expulsion
 - ii) the parents will pay the cost of the medical examination and chemical screening.
 - iii) the parents will be guided to seek professional counselling for the student

Part 2:

POSSESSION OR DISTRIBUTION OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS

The following steps will be taken if a student is found in possession of or distributing alcohol, other drugs, or any other related paraphernalia:

- 1) Any student who is found within the campus of Premier Academy and is reasonably suspected to have possession of, or to have consumed any drug or banned substance, shall be subjected to a Physical search of his/her locker, bag, and person, in the presence of a teacher and a witness.
- 2) Any evidence found will be sealed in an appropriate container, labelled with the date, name of the student, and the name of the school official who conducted the search.
- 3) The parent/guardian and law enforcement officials shall be notified.

- 4) The student shall be taken to a protective environment for observation, i.e. an isolation room, until the student can be taken to the School's registered Physician for a medical examination and chemical screening. By state law, this examination must take place within 24 hours of the incident being reported.
- 5) The student shall be suspended from school and subjected to expulsion based on findings by the Administration, Law enforcement officials and the Physician's report.

Part 3:

STUDENT VOLUNTARILY SEEKING HELP FOR ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUG-RELATED PROBLEMS

- 1) Students are encouraged to seek help for problems with or related to alcohol and drug use.
- 2) The School Counselor may be approached by the students seeking voluntary assistance, either for themselves or for their friends. Any communication between a student and School Counselor shall be treated with strict confidence provided that:
 - a) the student's health is not in imminent danger;
 - b) the information does not indicate that the health or safety of another individual is threatened and does not reveal any criminal activity.
- 3) Any student who seeks out help with substance abuse will not be subjected to the punitive measure of this policy.

Each student shall be treated in accordance with the particular circumstances of his/her case and the cooperation of each student and his/her parents/guardians is vital in determining the best course of action to ensure the physical and mental health of the student. Premier Academy is committed to ensuring that its students receive an education that will ensure a drug-free future for them as adults.