

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

St Francis College does not tolerate any form of substance abuse.

Definition:

For the purpose of this policy, substance abuse is defined as:

- The unauthorised, excessive or wrongful use of drugs (whether legal or illegal) or alcohol by any member of the College community. An individual shall be guilty of substance abuse when:
 - Found in possession of such substance; or
 - Such substance is present in their system; or
 - Found under the influence of such substance.

SMOKING

Smoking, vaping and 'hubbly' are considered as forms of substance abuse and are strictly forbidden. Pupils found smoking on school premises or in school uniform outside the school grounds, or on any school outing or in any other situation where they may be identified as St Francis College pupils, may be required to leave the school with immediate effect.

POLICY

- Appropriate actions will be taken in cases of infringement of this substance abuse policy.
- The best interests of the College as a whole will be considered paramount.

Application

This policy will be applied consistently in all cases of substance abuse. A distinction will be made between instances of those seeking assistance voluntarily and those discovered.

Pupils will be given every possible assistance should it be requested, regardless of any disciplinary action taken. All assistance given will be done with respect to the dignity of those concerned and will be given according to generally accepted codes of confidentiality and legal correctness.

Procedure

All instances of substance abuse will be investigated and actions taken will be consistent with this policy.

The Principal and designated staff members will be responsible for all necessary investigations.

St Francis College reserves the right to:

- Exert control at all times, as deemed fit by the Principal.
- Arrange urine and/or other drug tests, which may entail the engagement of an outside agency selected by the College, for any persons identified by the Principal as possibly being involved (these tests will be at the expense of the College if negative, for the parents' account if positive);
- Use agencies (e.g. the SAPS) and/or staff teams to monitor persons, belongings, grounds at any time, to identify possession or usage of drugs or alcohol.

- Establish and insist upon adherence to contracts or behaviour to regulate future conduct.

In cases of possession, usage, abuse or distribution of drugs or alcohol, discipline will be meted out, as seen fit by the Principal or Disciplinary Hearing at the time.

Discipline may take the form of:

- Detentions
- Withdrawal from College activities
- Community service
- Written or verbal warnings
- Final warnings
- Regular monitoring
- Contracts regulating behaviour
- Suspensions – returning after clear blood tests
- Expulsion
- Referral to the SAPS
- Or any other action deemed suitable at the time

Serious and second infractions will be considered expellable offences.

In every case, parents must be informed of their children's involvement and of what actions have been and will be taken.

Expulsion and suspensions will be according to the South African Schools Act, 1196, or other relevant legislation.

Principles

In every instance, regardless of whether or not the pupil/s concerned is/are removed from St Francis College, advice with regards to counselling services will be made available.

The degree of involvement of any pupil will be assessed thoroughly and actions taken will commensurate with the severity of the case, the past disciplinary record of the individual, any coercion or intimidation which may have taken place, as well as the reaction of the individual to being involved.

Pupils may be guilty by association: those in the company of others at the time they are guilty of infringements to this policy can be deemed similarly culpable and may be subjected to the same or other disciplinary action.

The Principal has the right to search any pupil, in accordance with the prescriptions of the Government Gazette, Notice 776 of 1998.

Police Action

In cases of possession/distribution of illegal substances at school, or in activities associated with the College, referral may be made to the SAPS for further investigation.

The College will render to the police whatever assistance is required.

Referral to the police will in no way delay or prevent the implementation of the College's drug policy.

Testing

The South African School Act authorises the Principal to arrange drug tests of a pupil/s based on reasonable suspicion.

Parents will be informed of the testing, if not before the test, then after the test has been conducted.