



School of Knowledge
(St. Mary's Group of Schools)

Drugs Policy



Reviewed: October 2025

Principal: Mr Peter Rowlands

Approved by: School Executive Board

Applies to: All Students, Staff, and Visitors

Aligned with: Sharjah Private Education Authority (SPEA) regulations, UAE Federal Law No. 14 of 1995 (as amended), and the SPEA guide to Drugs Prevention at School Environment 2021

1. Policy Statement

The School of Knowledge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment free from the misuse of drugs, alcohol, or other harmful substances. We recognise our duty of care to protect students and to educate the community about the physical, emotional, and social risks associated with substance use.

2. Aims

- To safeguard the health and wellbeing of every student.
- To promote understanding and awareness of the risks of drugs, alcohol, vaping, and controlled substances.
- To ensure a clear and consistent response to incidents involving drugs or substance misuse.
- To comply fully with SPEA, UAE federal legislation, and school safeguarding frameworks.
- To work in partnership with parents, students, and local authorities to maintain a drug-free school community.

3. Definition of ‘Drugs’

For the purpose of this policy, the term ‘drugs’ includes illegal substances as defined by UAE Federal Law 14 (1995), legal but harmful substances (alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, energy drinks, volatile substances), misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medication, and any paraphernalia associated with drug use.

4. Scope

This policy applies on school premises and transport, during school trips, camps, and extracurricular activities, and to all students, staff, contractors, and visitors. It also applies to behaviour outside school which may bring the school into disrepute or compromise student safety.

5. Education and Prevention

The school integrates drug education through:

- Curriculum delivery (PSHE, Moral Education, Science, and Wellbeing sessions).
- Workshops and Awareness Days with MOE, SPEA, and health authorities.
- Parent Engagement sessions.
- Staff Training including drug-awareness and safeguarding content.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Principal – Ensures implementation, compliance, and liaison with SPEA and authorities.

Vice Principal / DSL – Leads safeguarding response, investigations, and student support.

Teachers – Monitor wellbeing, report concerns, and deliver preventive education.

School Nurse / Counsellor – Provides early intervention and wellbeing support.

Parents – Reinforce school expectations and maintain open communication.

Students – Commit to the Code of Conduct and maintain a drug-free lifestyle.

7. Responding to Incidents

1. Immediate Safety – Remove any risk and inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
2. Initial Investigation – Conduct discreet fact-finding with witnesses.
3. Parental Notification – Inform parents at the earliest stage.
4. Recording – Complete a confidential incident report.
5. Action Taken – May include medical assessment, counselling, disciplinary action, or referral to SPEA.
6. Confidentiality – All incidents handled sensitively in line with safeguarding policy.

8. Disciplinary Procedures

Sanctions may include written warning, behaviour plan, suspension, exclusion, or rehabilitation referral. All actions comply with SPEA's Behaviour Management Framework and UAE Child Protection Law 3 of 2016.

9. Support and Rehabilitation

The school prioritises education and support over punishment through counselling, collaboration with health services, and reintegration plans.

10. Communication and Awareness

Policy shared annually with parents, included in staff induction, displayed across campus, and reinforced during assemblies and wellbeing campaigns.

11. Monitoring and Review

The policy is reviewed annually by leadership, data analysed for trends, and updates aligned with latest SPEA and UAE regulations.

12. Linked Policies

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy; Student Behaviour Policy; Health and Safety Policy; Wellbeing and Counselling Policy.