

2019

RISS DRUG POLICY

ROTTERDAM INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

FOR CONSULTATION & MR APPROVAL

Assessment Policy Monitoring This policy is to be reviewed and updated every two years after being approved by the MR in 2019.

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RISS Drugs Policy

Motivation of the school policy

This policy is born from the need to respond further to our vision for “Educating for self-awareness, curiosity and integrity in a changing world” and contribute to embedding our mission “for every student to enjoy their youth” within our central business: learning.

Purpose

The RISS endeavours to provide a safe learning space for students, teachers and all other employees and volunteers involved in the school. The purpose of these regulations is to explain and ensure health and safety for all and the protection of everyone involved in the school community. The use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs can lead to serious health risks, and can affect the atmosphere in and around the school and lead to a deterioration in the relationship between students and teachers. Simply put, substance use and education are not compatible.

Where problems are identified for either student (s) and our staff, the approval of the school will be immediate. When a situation develops which is outside the ability and scope of the school to manage, instant suspension will occur. Depending on the severity of the situation, exclusion will happen. However, where discussions and solutions are possible, the school requires the commitment and cooperation of the student and his or her parents/guardians to address the situation. A care plan will be put in place and students will be reintegrated conditionally and under a strict contract. Failing to comply will lead to exclusion. This is also potentially the case where there is no collaboration from families.

Rules

Smoking

1. RISS is a non-smoking school. Our school is a public building, where, according to the law, smoking is prohibited. We strongly advise all students to refrain from smoking because of scientifically proven health risks. If a student is caught smoking, then their parents will be informed immediately.
2. Any student who is found smoking on the school premises or in the vicinity of the school will receive a warning and a written letter will be sent home to their parents outlining the school rules.
3. Staff are aware of the fact that they serve as an example to students: smoking is therefore only allowed in the specially designated places, out of sight of students. Support is offered for anyone who would like to stop smoking. By 2020, as designated by law, no smoking whatsoever will be allowed on any school property.

Alcohol

1. It is not permissible for students to be in possession of alcohol, drink alcohol and be under the influence of alcohol at school, during the school day or at breaks in and outside the school building. No one under the influence of alcohol, can work well or participate fully in our learning community. Alcohol free beers is also not allowed.
2. In view of the proven scientific health damage that alcohol inflicts on the young brain, it is important that young people under the age of 18 do not drink alcohol. We therefore strive for an alcohol-free school.

3. No alcoholic beverages will be served during school parties, school trips and other meetings.
4. It is forbidden to carry, buy or bring alcoholic beverages to school events, during school trips, or other meetings under the responsibility of the school.
5. Alcohol may be served during staff and parental meetings that have a social character. Moderation will be used, taking into account that teachers and adults should serve as an example to students.

Cannabis

1. It is prohibited by law to possess, trade, or use hashish or marijuana. At school, the possession of cannabis products is prohibited.
2. No student may attend school under the influence of cannabis. When someone has used cannabis, learning and working is affected.
3. Students may not attend any school functions or school trips or school related activity under the influence of cannabis.

Energy drinks

Energy drinks often contain taurine and caffeine and high levels of sugar. The effects of taurine are not yet known. It is also not yet known what the effect of caffeine is on children, but there is reason to think that children are more vulnerable to the (side) effects of caffeine than adults. Energy drinks can affect the concentration and sleep pattern of students, and can lead to an increased risk of headaches, due to the withdrawal symptoms of caffeine. The use of energy drinks during school time or on school trips is not allowed, and no energy drinks are sold in the school cafeteria.

Other drugs

1. The possession, trade, or use of legally prohibited substances not specifically mentioned here is also not permitted at school.
2. At school one is not under the influence of drugs. When someone has used drugs, he cannot learn or work properly.

Medication

The use of certain medications can influence the reaction-time and concentration of students. This can increase the risk when performing certain tasks and activities. Please, as parent or guardian, inform the tutor, nurse and school administration of any medication used by a student.

Dealing

1. Dealing is not allowed in and around the school.
2. Dealing is not allowed during any extracurricular school activities.

Incidents

1. If it is proven that a student has violated one or more of the rules as described above, he/she will be called in and clear sanctions, as well as support - where applicable - will follow.
2. When there is a clear suspicion that a student is violating any of the above-mentioned rules, he/she will be called in for a conversation, and a decision will be made as to what sanctions and/or counselling which may follow. In severe cases, immediate suspension will be given.

3. If there is evidence, or if it can be assumed with some certainty that someone is guilty of dealing drugs in or near school, the student will immediately be suspended from school, and the police will be contacted. The normal procedures in suspension and exclusion in such a case will be followed.

Sanctions/Punishment

Depending on the seriousness of the violation, any or a combination of the following punishments may be imposed.

1. *Work penalty*: The student is obliged to carry out an assignment/task as determined by the team leader.
2. *Alternative punishment*: The student must write a report and / or give a presentation on the subject for which the sanction has been imposed, as decided by the Head of Section/Deputy Principal.
3. *Exclusion from school activities*: The student may not be present or take part in a specified number of extracurricular activity or activities.
4. *Corvée*: The student is obliged to perform unpaid work for the benefit of the school community.
5. *Detention*: The student must either sit detention after hours, or before the normal school hours, under supervision of the team leader or a specified teacher.
6. *Suspension*: The student can be suspended from school for one to a maximum of five working days. When the student returns to school, a reintegration meeting with the parents will be necessary.
7. *Permanent removal from school*. Depending on the seriousness of the action, or after a repeated number of suspensions, a student may be removed permanently from the school.
8. *Contact with the Police*: If a student violates a legal rule, the school will call in the police for legal advice and support.
9. *Confiscation (energy drink)*: After a warning, a teacher can proceed to confiscate the item.

Identification of problematic behaviour and guidance

In addition to sanctions, students will also receive support and guidance and even a referral – if deemed necessary to an outside institution for support. The crisis team will be called upon to analyse the situation and deliver actions and provisions.

1. Protocol: In case of suspicious use or any other signal that may indicate use or possible dealing, the teacher can report this to the mentor and the Head of Section/ Deputy Principal. A decision will be made who approaches and interviews the student(s) involved. The LT is informed. The tutor links back to the teacher(s) who noticed the problem. Feedback and record keeping are essential!
2. Informing parents. Parents are informed at an early stage, unless there are compelling reasons not to do so in the first instance.
3. Internal support of students. Tutors who have received special training for this purpose can supervise or mentor the student and may contact Youz for support, collaboration or consultation. The school counsellor, where applicable, can also be used for extra support.
4. Referral to outside expert institutions. When the problem persists or cannot be managed adequately in school, the student must be discussed by the Crisis Team and a case manager assigned to him or her, and a decision will be made on what extra support could be utilized. A member of Youz may be invited and can be incorporated into the team as specific support.
5. A designated member of staff should monitor compliance with the policy. S/he keeps the management of the school as well as colleagues informed on a continuous basis about developments and situations that have occurred. In addition, all staff members are expected to report their concerns and irregularities.

Control and 'detection'

1. The school is private terrain; therefore, the school management can remove people who are not members of the school, or have no reason to be present in the school or surrounding area
2. Compliance with the policy will be enforced in the physical school building, school grounds and immediate environment of the school.
3. The school reserves the right to regularly check the lockers, whether or not in cooperation with the police.
4. At school events, there may be a control for illegal substances. If a student is under the influence of alcohol, or there is a suspicion that a student is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, access will be denied and the parents will be informed, and parents will be asked to pick up their child. It remains the responsibility of the parent to help enforce Nix 18 - the social programme of the Dutch government that actively discourages the use of alcohol or smoking under the age of 18.
5. The RISS is in regular contact with the school community officer and will ask for specific feedback. Police not in uniform also sometimes control the area around the school.
6. The school or members of staff are not allowed to randomly search a student, this is only reserved for those who are competent with specific legal powers.
7. Procedure for confiscating drugs at school:
 - a. Confiscating substances is only allowed when a student is caught with the illegal substance on him or her, or are caught in the act of dealing or using the substance. Members of staff are not allowed to search students.
 - b. Ensure that the handing over, or confiscation takes place in the presence of an adult witness.
 - c. Give the student a receipt with the name of the school, name and function of the person confiscating the substance, date, type and quantity of drugs/alcohol. Both student and member of staff should sign and save a copy of the receipt.
8. The management is obliged to hand over the drugs to the police as soon as possible. *(Keep in mind safe place to store confiscated drugs)*

Complaints procedure

The student concerned and/or his/her parent (s) /guardian (s) can appeal against the made by the school in written to the School Principal.

Training and Information

Basic training in identification and approach to substance abuse is mandatory for teachers and educational support staff. Every year a refresher training will be offered for new teachers or teachers who wish to hone their skills. This could be done in various configurations as is most appropriate in school. The school support staff and concierge are vital in their role within the school. The training course will be offered by Youz.

1. Teachers are expected to have sufficient knowledge about:
 - a. Most commonly abused substances (type and effects).
 - b. Use by young people (stages of use, experimentation, addiction).
2. Teachers are expected to have sufficient knowledge and skills about:
 - a. Giving reliable Information to young people (individually, groups).
 - b. Detecting possible use, and how to start a discussion with a student.

3. Concierges and Support Staff are expected to have sufficient knowledge about:
 - a. Most commonly used substances (types and effects)
 - b. Use by young people (stages of use, experimentation, addiction)
 - c. Detecting use.
 - d. Legal procedures and requirements regarding control and detection.

Information

1. The information regarding the use of drugs and addictive substances should be presented in an appropriate manner; therefore, it is vital that staff are informed and can supply correct, credible information. Information which is not credible, may have a negative instead of the intended positive effect.
2. An important goal of education is to encourage students to consider the choices they make as teenagers. Students should be encouraged to have the courage to make brave choices such as withstanding group pressure, and a culture of alcohol use, drug use or smoking and choose a healthy lifestyle.
3. Information should already be given to students in stages, starting in grade 6, and continued throughout the school years.
4. Information on drug use should be offered across the curricula, and all teachers should include aspects of this in the teaching approach, not only in subjects such as Biology, but also in tutor classes and all other classes.

Finally: The school's policy on drug, alcohol use and abuse will be brought to the attention of students and their parents/guardians and teachers. This is done by means of publishing it on the website and sharing it with all members of the school community via this medium. Once a year, parents will receive a copy via email.

This regulation will be brought to the attention of students when they are registered; if the parents / guardians do not want to comply with this policy, then there is the possibility of not admitting the students to the school.

Clarification of terms used

- *Smoking*
 - The use of tobacco such as cigarettes, water pipes, shisha pipe e-cigarettes / vaper and loose tobacco.
- *Alcohol*
 - All drinks which contain any amount of alcohol.
- *Cannabis*
 - All products in which cannabis is processed (or in pure form) such as marijuana and hashish.
- *Energy drink*
 - Soft drinks with added calories due to the presence of sugars, giving a temporarily increased feeling of energy. It also has an energizing effect due to the added caffeine, taurine and glucuronolactone. Examples are: Red Bull, Monster, Burn etc.
- *Other Drugs*
 - All substances mentioned in the Opium Act, including the use of non-prescribed medicine
- *Medication*
 - All medicines obtained with a prescription or not.
- *Dealing*

- Involvement in the distribution of drugs (or alcohol and medicines) by providing or selling free of charge, selling, buying, transporting and delivering all drugs (or alcohol and medicines).

Place

- *School*
 - This includes the physical buildings, grounds surrounding the school up to the distance of two hundred meters from outside the building. When students are not in the physical building, but engaged in a school activity, (e.g. during an excursion, school party, sports competition, cultural trips or exchange programme) the school rules and the drug regulations are still applicable.

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