



مدرسة ايليت الانجليزية ش.ذ.م.م  
Elite English School L.L.C

# Substance Abuse Policy

## Governing Authorities:

Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA)  
Ministry of Education (MOE), United Arab Emirates

**Review Cycle:** Yearly

**Last Review:** February 2026

**Next Review:** February 2027

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## 1. Statement of Policy

Elite English School Dubai is committed to safeguarding the health, wellbeing and safety of all students. The school maintains a clear stance against the misuse of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping products and all harmful or prohibited substances.

We recognize our responsibility to:

- Protect students from physical, emotional and social harm.
- Educate young people about the risks and consequences of substance abuse.
- Support students who may be vulnerable or in need of help.
- Work in partnership with parents and external authorities to ensure student safety.
- Comply fully with UAE law, KHDA regulations and Ministry of Education guidance.

Elite English School Dubai promotes a **safe, respectful and substance-free environment** in which all students can learn and thrive.

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## 2. Policy Aims

This policy aims to:

- Prevent the use, possession, distribution or promotion of harmful substances.
- Educate students to make informed, responsible and healthy life choices.
- Promote resilience, self-esteem and decision-making skills.

- Provide early intervention and pastoral support for students at risk.
  - Ensure consistent procedures that reflect the seriousness of substance-related incidents.
  - Maintain compliance with UAE Federal Law and KHDA safeguarding expectations.
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### **3. Education and Prevention**

Elite English School Dubai believes education is central to prevention.

Substance misuse education is delivered through:

- Personal, Social, Health and Wellbeing Education (PSHWE / PERMA).
- Science and health-related curriculum links.
- Assemblies and wellbeing workshops.
- Age-appropriate discussions about:
  - Drugs and illegal substances
  - Alcohol misuse
  - Tobacco and vaping
  - Prescription medication misuse
  - Peer pressure and risk-taking behavior
- Visiting speakers and approved external awareness programmes (where appropriate).

Students are encouraged to:

- Understand the physical, emotional and legal consequences of substance misuse.
  - Develop strategies to resist pressure.
  - Seek help for themselves or others without fear of stigma.
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### **4. Pastoral Support and Student Welfare**

The school recognises that substance misuse may be linked to wider wellbeing concerns.

Support may include:

- Early pastoral intervention.
- Counselling support through the school wellbeing team.

- Support from the School Nurse.
- Referral to external agencies when appropriate.
- Ongoing monitoring and reintegration plans.

Students will always be treated with dignity, care and confidentiality, within safeguarding limits.

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## **5. Partnership with Parents**

Elite English School Dubai believes that effective prevention depends on strong home–school partnership.

Parents are expected to:

- Support the school’s Substance Abuse Policy.
- Engage in discussions with their child regarding healthy lifestyle choices.
- Inform the school of any concerns or relevant information affecting student welfare.

The school will:

- Communicate openly with parents regarding education programmes.
  - Invite parents to awareness sessions and wellbeing events.
  - Inform parents promptly if concerns arise involving their child.
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## **6. Working with External Agencies**

Elite English School Dubai works in cooperation with relevant authorities to ensure student safety and legal compliance.

These include:

- **KHDA**
- **Ministry of Education (MOE)**
- **Dubai Police**
- **Relevant UAE Government and health agencies**

In line with UAE law:

- Any suspected illegal activity must be reported to Dubai Police.
- KHDA will be informed where required.

- The school will fully cooperate with investigations and official guidance.
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## **7. School Rules on Substance Abuse**

The school operates a **zero-tolerance approach** in accordance with UAE law.

**Prohibited substances include (but are not limited to):**

- Illegal drugs
  - Controlled substances
  - Vaping devices and e-cigarettes
  - Tobacco products
  - Alcohol
  - Solvents and inhalants
  - Misuse of prescription or over-the-counter medication
  - Drug-related paraphernalia
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## **8. Alcohol**

- The possession, consumption, sale, or being under the influence of alcohol during the school day or at any school-related activity is strictly prohibited.
  - Any breach will be treated as a serious disciplinary offence.
  - Incidents will be reported in line with UAE law and KHDA guidance.
  - Sanctions may include fixed-term or permanent exclusion.
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## **9. Prescription Medication**

- All prescription medication must be declared to the School Clinic.
  - Medication should be stored and administered by the School Nurse wherever possible.
  - Students must not share or misuse medication.
  - Suspected misuse will be treated as a serious breach of policy and may result in disciplinary action, including exclusion.
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## **10. Tobacco and Vaping**

- Smoking, vaping or possession of related products is strictly prohibited.
  - This includes school premises, school transport, trips, and any situation where students are identifiable as members of the Elite English School community.
  - Repeated offences may result in permanent exclusion.
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## **11. Procedures for Substance-Related Incidents**

When a concern or incident arises:

1. The student's immediate safety will be prioritised.
2. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Senior Leadership Team will be informed.
3. The substance or item will be secured safely.
4. Parents will be contacted promptly.
5. Dubai Police and KHDA will be notified where legally required.
6. A full investigation will be conducted.
7. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.
8. Pastoral and welfare support will be considered.

All actions will follow the school's Behaviour, Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures.

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## **12. Disciplinary Measures**

Depending on the nature and severity of the incident, sanctions may include:

- Formal warning
- Fixed-term exclusion
- Behaviour or wellbeing contract
- Mandatory counselling or support plan
- Permanent exclusion (in serious or repeated cases)

Mitigating circumstances may be considered only where:

- Information is voluntarily disclosed by the student or parents.

- There is clear evidence of willingness to engage with support.
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### **13. Confidentiality and Safeguarding**

- Confidentiality will be respected wherever possible.
  - However, safeguarding and legal obligations take precedence.
  - Information will be shared only with relevant staff and authorities to protect the student and wider community.
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### **14. Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be:

- Reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team.
  - Updated in line with KHDA guidance, MOE directives and UAE legislation.
  - Evaluated through incident data, student wellbeing trends and pastoral reviews.
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**Elite English School Dubai is committed to protecting every child's right to safety, wellbeing and a healthy future.**