

Die Hoër Tegnologiese Skool
John Vorster

POLICY FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF CANNABIS USE AND POSSESSION BY LEARNERS



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1. **TITLE OF THE POLICY: POLICY FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF CANNABIS USE AND POSSESSION BY LEARNERS**
2. **EFFECTIVE DATE: 23 APRIL 2021**
3. **DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: 23 APRIL 2022**
4. **REVISION HISTORY:**

As amended on: 20 APRIL 2021

5. PREAMBLE

- 5.1. HTS JOHN VORSTER is obligated to provide a safe and healthy working and learning environment for its employees, learners, affiliates, parents, visitors and guests.
- 5.2. The School is committed to a preventative approach to the potential harms of cannabis in the school's learning environment and adopts a health-focused rehabilitative approach, in addition to a procedural approach., but this does not exclude any disciplinary measures in terms of this policy, the learner code of conduct and any other national and GDE legislation, regulations and policies.
- 5.3. Signs of teen cannabis dependence include irritability, moodiness, difficulty sleeping, decreased appetite, cravings, restlessness, and various forms of physical discomfort. Recent research suggests that 30 per cent of those who use cannabis may have some degree of cannabis use disorder. Moreover, scientists have found that people who begin using cannabis before the age of 18 are four to seven times more likely to develop a cannabis use disorder than adults. When a learner is abusing cannabis, parents have to be involved and have to speak to a psychologist, school welfare worker or a counsellor as soon as possible. Receiving help from a clinical professional will provide insight as to whether further treatment is necessary.

6. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

- 6.1. School policies are designed to hold learners accountable for their behaviour. Thus, the school has to have investigatory and disciplinary procedures to maintain order among learners, prevent illegal activity, and avoid [vicarious] liability for personal injuries that may occur when learners possess, use, and deal or distribute cannabis at school or any school activity or school-sponsored events.
- 6.2. The anti-social behaviour and misconduct as outlined in this policy concerning the above are prohibited in or on school property, on school-sponsored transportation, at school-sponsored events/activities, and in school-owned vehicles. This expanded and explained in the policy.
- 6.3. This policy is for the benefit of the entire School community and aims to in all situations to lead to appropriate support and aid in the rehabilitation process of learners abusing/using/possessing/dealing/distributing/trading in Cannabis and/or Cannabis products and/or Cannabis paraphernalia.

7. TERMINOLOGY AND ACRONYMS

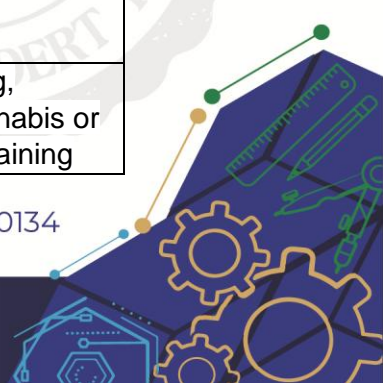
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7.1 Terminology

Term	Explanation
Addiction/Dependency	Addiction is a chronic, relapsing disease that affects both the brain and behaviour. In many but not all cases, Cannabis use involves the use of or in a combination of nicotine, alcohol and other drugs. Addiction often originates with use in adolescence when the brain is still developing and is more vulnerable to their effects. If untreated, it can become a chronic and relapsing condition, requiring ongoing professional treatment and management approaches that reduce the toll drug abuse takes on individuals, families, and communities.
Additives	Substances added to cannabis, usually to enhance the experience. Additives like herbs or tobacco may simply change the taste or aroma of cannabis. Drugs like cocaine, salvia or PCP may be added to produce a different high. It is also mixed in with other substances to be smoked or inhaled such as Nyaope.
Adolescent	A young person who is developing into an adult
Aftercare	Aftercare in the context of this policy means ongoing professional support to a service user after a formal treatment episode has ended to enable him or her to maintain sobriety or abstinence, personal growth and to enhance self-reliance and proper social functioning
Bankie/Baggie	In South Africa, much cannabis is sold in small bank bags known as "bankies and baggies".
Bong	A smoking device similar to a Hubbly Bubbly. Smoke is drawn through water to cool and filter it. Also known as a water pipe. Inhaling smoke from a bong may be referred to as taking a bong rip or a haul.
Buds	Cannabis is usually consumed as a dry, mix of plants flowers or buds.
Cannabinoid	Cannabinoids (such as THC and CBD) are the active chemical compounds found in the cannabis plant. There are more than 80 different cannabinoids found within the cannabis plant. The cannabinoid that is mostly known for its psychoactive effect is called THC, or delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol. A variety of effects, such as the medicinal effects of cannabis, also involve a range of other cannabinoids, such as CBD (cannabidiol), CBN (cannabinol), and other plant molecules (terpenoids and flavonoids, which are not considered cannabinoids).
Cannabis	Cannabis is a generic term used to denote the several psychoactive preparations of the plant <i>Cannabis sativa</i> and <i>Cannabis indica</i> . The major psychoactive constituent in cannabis is Δ -9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Term	Explanation
	<p>Compounds which are structurally similar to THC are referred to as cannabinoids. The term 'marijuana' and 'dagga' is also frequently used in referring to cannabis leaves or other crude plant material in many countries. Cannabis is also mostly known as boom, joint, zol, dagga, dope, skyf weed, hash, jut, majat (low grade cannabis) poison, peperskyf, ganja, Swazi Brick, Malawi gold, Malawi cob, mahabange, insangu, imya, lebake, splif, Transkei Colly, Durban poison grass, pot, hash, weed, reefer, herb, mull, buddha, ganja, stick, buckets, cones, skunk, hydro, yarndi, Mary Jane, smoke and hooch.</p> <p>"cannabis" also means:</p> <p>(a) the flowering or fruiting tops and the leaves of a cannabis plant that have been separated from the plant, but excludes any seed, seedling, the stalk and branches without any leaf, fruit or flower, and the roots of a cannabis plant; and</p> <p>(b) any substance which contains THC, and fresh cannabis, dried cannabis and cannabis concentrate, are classes of cannabis;</p>
Cannabis Consumption	Means the administration of cannabis in any form whether inhaled, ingested, or applied on the skin, including smoking, vaping, eating, drinking, oils, or absorption by any other means into the body. Cannabis is often consumed using devices such as electronic cigarettes, pipes, water pipes (bongs), hookah, vaporizers (vapers) or other inhalant-type devices.
Cannabis derivative	Extracts from the Cannabis sativa plant, usually in the form of an oil. Tinctures, which use alcohol to extract substances from plants, are also common. Derivatives can be natural or synthetic (man-made). [Herbal]
Cannabis forms [of the plant]	In general, five forms of cannabis are consumed: the flowers of the female plant, hashish (a resin created by heating and pressing glandular trichomes from the plant), kief (glandular trichomes from the cannabis plant), and hash oil (an essential oil extracted using a solvent) and resin (a tar-like by-product of heating the cannabis plant).
Consumption or Consume [of Cannabis/Cannabis products]	Means to smoke, eat, drink by any learner or otherwise that the learner self-administer cannabis.
Dealing	Selling, donating, swapping, supplying, distributing, trading, trafficking or any form of exchange of cannabis or any cannabis-derived product or any product containing



Term	Explanation
	cannabis, have in one's possession for the purposes of sale, offer for sale, offer to purchase and/or any other conduct to facilitate selling is viewed as dealing.
Delivery	<p>Any learner who delivers, receives delivery of, or attempts/intends to deliver or receive any cannabis substance, or any related paraphernalia shall be subject to disciplinary action.</p> <p>Delivery means a transfer of possession or control to another person whether or not the substance or item is in that person's immediate presence.</p> <p>Delivery includes, but is not limited to, any gift, exchange, sale or transfer, distribution, barter or any quid pro quo with or without payment or consideration.</p>
Distributing	Means distributing, sharing, or passing around cannabis, including but not limited to medical, home-grown, street or store purchased cannabis, cannabis concentrates, any food item with cannabis in it, and/or cannabis paraphernalia including but not limited to pipes, handmade devices, and electronic vapour/vaping devices or products containing a cannabis substance.
Drug	Means any illicit substance as well as cannabis or any derivate there-of.
SGB Disciplinary committee	Means a disciplinary committee appointed in terms of paragraph 4 of General Notice 6903 of 2000 (PG 144 of 4 October 2000) as amended by General Notice 2591 of 2001 (PG 72 of 9 May 2001) and GDE Circular 74/2007.
Dopamine	A chemical in the brain that helps send signals between nerve cells and is associated with feelings of pleasure.
Drug testing/drug test	Means measuring for the presence or absence of cannabis THC or their metabolites in the sample tested.
Drug Use	Means the use of controlled psychoactive substances such as cannabis by learners for non-medical and non-scientific purposes.
Edibles	Edibles are foods or orally consumed items that are infused with cannabis. They are often made with oils or fats that have been infused with the drug. They can be extremely potent compared to inhaling the drug. Edibles have moved far beyond the idea of a homemade "pot brownie." They can be mints, gummies, lollipops, candies,

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Term	Explanation
	butter, baked goods, cool drinks and many other types of food.
Educator	Means an educator as defined in the Employment of Educators Act, 1998 (Act 76 of 1998) and/or SASA.
Entrance of School	Entrance means the point of access to the school property and includes any adjoining covered surrounding area.
Guardian	Means a guardian referred to in section 1 of the Children's Act, 2005 and in the context of SASA's definition of a parent.
Head of Discipline	Means an educator with a SACE number, who shall have the powers, duties and obligations conferred upon him/her by the principal as well as any powers reasonably incident thereto
Hallucination	The perception of objects that are not real.
Illicit	Refers to any drugs, substances and paraphernalia that the law/ Learner Code of Conduct and this policy makes illegal to use, possess, cultivate, deal, distribute, trade, provide and/or traffic on or off the school premises by any learner of the school.
Impairment	Means a disturbance of the body or mind (and related functions) from any cause that results in an unacceptable risk to the individual or others related to the individual's ability to safely perform a task at school, in any school learning environment or recreationally. Impairment is a state of mind or body that causes the individual to become a hazard to self or others.
Joint	Popular slang for a cannabis cigarette or zol.
Learner	Means any person receiving education or obliged to receive education in terms of SASA.
Learners who use Cannabis	Learners who use Cannabis is the collective term used in this plan to refer to learners in the school who ingest Cannabis irrespective of the route of administration.
Misconduct and Serious Misconduct	Means misconduct committed by a learner of the School and includes the following but is not restricted thereto: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) misconduct committed on the premises of a school, whether during or outside of school hours; b) misconduct committed during any school activity/function/school supported function, irrespective of whether it is committed within or outside the school premises, and during or outside of school hours; and c) any conduct, committed in or out of school uniform and within or outside the school premises, which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. tends to/may bring the school into disrepute;

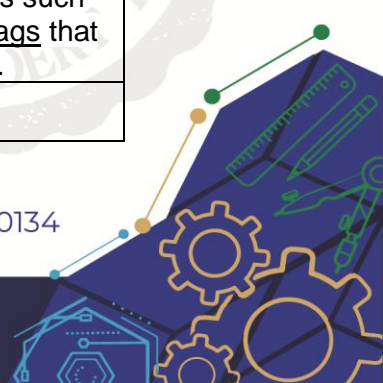
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Term	Explanation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. interferes with the governance, authority and proper administration of the school; iii. interferes with the conditions necessary for any school activity; iv. subject to the reasonable exercise of the right TO assemble, demonstrate, picket and petition as provided in the Constitution, 1996 and the learner code, is committed with the intention of preventing any person from exercising his or her rights, powers or duties as a member of the school community, or is committed in retaliation against such exercise; or is prohibited by the Learner Code of Conduct, related policies of the school and/or any other legislation or national and provincial policies and circulars;
Nyaope	Nyaope is a street mixture of drugs with the most common substances including heroin and cannabis. Nyaope (heroin part) is sprinkled on cannabis and smoked as a cocktail. On its own it is also injected or 'chased' off foil without cannabis – the active ingredients are mainly heroin and other opioids to give a heroin-like effect. The other substances, such as some small amounts of stimulants are to enhance the initial perception of a high through dopamine activity (which is not primarily linked to heroin use) and as 'bulking' agents. Examples of street names are whoonga, and unga.
Offences against property	Means wilfully or recklessly taking or having unauthorised possession of, theft of, vandalising, damaging or destroying any property belonging: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to the School; or b) to any learner, visitor, contractor, agent, parent, educator, staff member or group of learners when such property is on school premises or other premises during the course of a school-sponsored activity or event; c) or threatening to do any of the above.
Paraphernalia	Is a term, to denote any equipment, product or accessory that is intended or modified for making, for using, for ingesting, for consuming or concealing cannabis, typically for recreational purposes . Cannabis and cannabis derivatives are related to a wide range of paraphernalia used. Paraphernalia generally falls into two categories: user-specific products and dealer-specific products. Some stores sell items for growing hydroponic cannabis, such as guidebooks, fertilizer, and fluorescent grow-lights. Dealer-specific products are used by drug sellers or traffickers for preparing drugs for distribution. Items such as digital scales , vials , and small zipper storage bags that can be used to sell cannabis fall into this category.
Parent	means –

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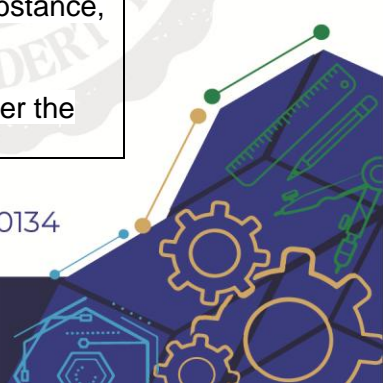
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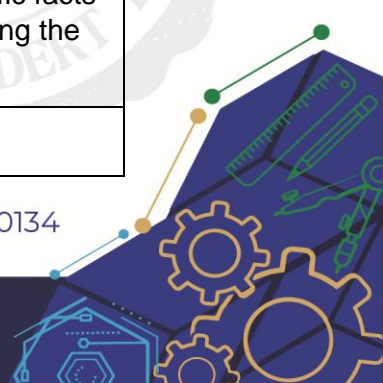
Term	Explanation
	<p>(a) the parent or guardian of a learner;</p> <p>(b) the person legally entitled to custody of a learner;</p> <p>(c) the person who undertakes to fulfil the obligations of a person referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) towards the learner's education at school.</p> <p>Throughout the policy, the term "parent" includes a parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control of the child.</p>
People who suffer from Drug Use Disorders/ People with Drug Use Disorders	A subset of people who use drugs. Harmful use of substances and dependence are features of drug use disorders. People with drug use disorders need treatment, health and social care and rehabilitation. (UNODC).
Progressive Learner Discipline	Mans a whole school approach that utilizes a continuum of intervention supports, and consequences to address inappropriate and unacceptable learner behaviour and builds upon strategies that promote positive behaviours contributing to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment.
Pipe	A smoking device. Material is placed in a bowl and lit. Smoke is then drawn through a stem and mouthpiece. A pipe used to smoke cannabis.
Playground	Means any part of the school area for use by learners that has play or sports equipment installed or has been designated or landscaped for play or sports activities or to which learners are assigned during a school break.
Possess	Possess means to have on one's person, in one's effects/belongings, or an area subject to one's control or immediate presence in a place or a room or cloakroom, toilet cubicle or any other open space and includes to keep or to store the drug, or to have it in custody or under control or supervision.
Possession	<p>Possession includes having the drug or substance on one's person, in one's clothing, in one's room (in case of a hostel) or one's belongings and/or</p> <p>Any learner who has possession or control of any, cannabis, any controlled substance, any other intoxicating substance, any "look-alike" intoxicating substance, or any drug paraphernalia shall be subject to disciplinary action.</p> <p>The term "possession" includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, regardless of whether or not the item is</p> <p>a) on the learner's person; or</p> <p>b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the learner, such as in the learner's</p>

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Term	Explanation
	<p>clothing, backpack, schoolbag, any other type of bag, vehicle; or</p> <p>c) in a learner's locker, desk, or other school property, or</p> <p>d) any other location on school property or at a school-sponsored event;</p> <p>e) possession may also include having knowingly concealed a drug or substance in another location to retrieve it in the future;</p> <p>f) including coercing another learner to conceal the substance for the learner whom the cannabis belongs to in their or anywhere else on school property or in his/her belongings;</p> <p>g) to retrieve it for the person who the cannabis/paraphernalia belongs to from the said location.</p>
Possessing	Possessing, using, or being under the influence of cannabis, or a combination of cannabis and controlled substances, prescription or over-the-counter drugs, and/or drug paraphernalia including but not limited to pipes, handmade devices, electronic vapour/vaping devices or products containing an illegal drug/cannabis
Possessing or Using Marijuana	Possessing, using, or being under the influence of cannabis, including but not limited to medical, home-grown, street or store purchased cannabis, cannabis concentrates, any food item with cannabis in it, and/or drug/cannabis-related paraphernalia including but not limited to pipes, handmade devices, and electronic vapour/vaping devices or products containing a cannabis substance.
Principal	Means an educator appointed or acting as the head of a school.
Psychoactive substances	Psychoactive substances refer to substances that, "when taken or administered into one's system, affect mental processes" such as cognition. The degree of psychoactivity can usually be determined by the quantity of THC in the product, however, other factors (including the presence of other psychoactive cannabinoids, such as CBN, as well as the effects of terpenes) may also play a role.
Public Place	Means any place to which the public has access as of right and any school premises.
Pusher	A person who supplies or sells cannabis or any cannabis derivative to another person.
Reasonable suspicion	Means a basis for forming a belief based on specific facts and rational inferences drawn from those facts using the principle of a balance of probabilities.
[Drug] Rehabilitation	Drug rehabilitation is the process of medical or psychotherapeutic treatment for dependency



Term	Explanation
	on psychoactive substances such as alcohol, prescription drugs , and street drugs such as cannabis. The general intent is to enable the patient to confront substance dependence , if present, and cease substance abuse to avoid the psychological , legal, financial, social, and physical consequences that can be caused, especially by extreme abuse. Treatment includes medication for depression or other disorders, counselling by experts and sharing of experience with other addicts/users .
Regular use of cannabis	Regular use of cannabis means that the use of cannabis occurs regularly over time. It may involve using cannabis every day, almost every day, or every weekend over several months or several years.
Relapse	When a person has been abstinent for a period and starts using drugs again
Risk	Means potential and/or probability of emotional, social or physical harm to self and/or others.
Stash	A quantity of cannabis hidden or kept in a container or on one's person with the intent to use or distribute or sell.
Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	SUD is a general term used to describe a range of problems associated with drug use (including Cannabis, illicit drugs and misuse of prescribed medication), and from drug abuse to addiction.
Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)	Is the main active chemical (cannabinoid) found in cannabis that creates the euphoric high in the user's brain associated with cannabis use.
Threat	Means an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently
Treatment/Rehabilitation	Treatment/rehabilitation refers to the process that begins when learners who use drugs come into contact with a health provider or any other community service, and may continue through a succession of specific interventions until the highest attainable level of health and well-being is reached
Safety	The term safety in the context of this policy is used broadly and may involve physical safety, and safety in terms of OHSA, safety in terms of health and the best interest of the child and reputational safety of the school.
The School	Means HTS JOHN VORSTER
School activity	Means any educational, cultural, sporting, fundraising or social activity of the school within or outside the premises of the school.
School-Based Support Team	Means a team established by the schools, as a school-based support mechanism whose primary function is to

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Term	Explanation
	put in place and manage a co-ordinated school, learner and educator support service.
School Community	Includes employees, learners, students, assistant educators, participants in school activities and programmes, members of the SGB and its Committees, and members of committees established by the school, the SMT, the SBST, volunteers, contractors, and individuals providing service or research, individuals or groups who use/rent school facilities and/or resources and visitors.
School function	For the purpose of this Policy, any school function is an event approved or endorsed by the school principal or the SGB at which learners are under the supervision of school educators.
School Governing Body	Means the School Governing Body of the school.
School Management Team	The Management Team of the school which assist the principal which includes the deputy principal(s), and heads of departments and other educators as needed.
School Location (also see school premises)	School location includes any school building or on any school premises; in any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport learners to and from school or school activities; off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event or function, such as a field trip/tour or sport/cultural event, where learners are under the jurisdiction of the school; or during any time during which a school employee is supervising learners on behalf of the school or otherwise engaged in school business.
School Premises	Means any premises, including the grounds, buildings of the school including temporary/permanent structures of any kind, school vehicles or vehicles parked on the school premises and facilities, which is owned, leased/licensed, operated /and/or used by the School, school hostels, sports fields, lapas, (including, without being limited to, elevators, hallways, parking garages, parking areas, party or entertainment rooms, kitchens and other food preparation areas, laundry facilities, lobbies and exercise areas).
Sell/Selling/Dealing/ Distribution of Cannabis	<p>a) In relation to Cannabis and cannabis products and paraphernalia, includes to offer, advertise, possess or expose the drug for sale, to dispose of it, whether for consideration or otherwise, or to exchange it for money, services or other goods.</p> <p>b) Selling or intending to sell cannabis, including but not limited to medical, home-grown, street or store purchased cannabis, cannabis concentrates, any food</p>

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Term	Explanation
	item with cannabis in it, and/or drug paraphernalia including but not limited to pipes, handmade devices, and electronic vapour/vaping devices or products containing a cannabis substance.
Serious Misconduct	Means misconduct as contained in Schedules 1 and 2 of General Notice 6903 of 2000 (PG 144 of 4 October 2000) as amended by General Notice 2591 of 2001 (PG 72 of 9 May 2001).
Smoking/Smoke (Intention to)	<p>a) To Smoke means to inhale or exhale the smoke produced by ignited cannabis or holding or otherwise having control of ignited cannabis or any device or object that contains ignited cannabis;</p> <p>b) Smoking includes carrying unlighted cannabis product, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted/unlighted smoking equipment or any other substance/drug or using a vaper/twisp/e-cigarette.</p>
Staff	Is taken to mean all individuals employed by the school as academic or teaching personnel.
Substance	Is taken to have the same meaning as “drug” outlined in the definition of “drug” and “use”.
Substance abuse	Substance abuse according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) is often associated with addiction or dependence . The WHO defines drug abuse as “ <i>a state, psychic and sometimes also physical, resulting from interaction between a living organism and a drug, characterised by behavioural and other responses that always include a compulsion to take the drug on a continuous or periodic basis in order to experience its psychic effects, and sometimes to avoid the discomfort of its absence</i> ”.
Substance use	Is when someone consumes Cannabis. Substance use always comes with a very high risk that it might lead to addiction.
Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	A medical illness which ranges from mild to severe and from temporary to chronic. Addiction is the most severe form of an SUD. A SUD develops when continued misuse of the drug changes the brain and causes health problems and failure to meet responsibilities at work, school, or home.
Suspension/Suspend	Means: <p>a) a learner may not be entitled to attend a class at the school;</p> <p>b) a learner may not be entitled to hold office or perform any duties and functions contemplated by any relevant law relating to school governance for the period of the suspension;</p> <p>c) a learner may not be entitled to participate in extra-curricular activities at the school; or</p>

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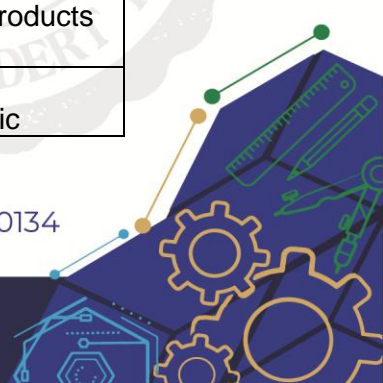
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Term	Explanation
	d) a learner may not be able to attend school for a period of time that may not exceed one week.
Supervision	means the management and control of learners at school or during a school activity;
[Cannabis] Supply	In this Policy 'supply' refers to any incidents involving supplying, sharing, dealing, trafficking, trading, distributing or selling of illicit and other drugs.
Strains	Breeds of Cannabis that have been manipulated (such as through selective breeding) or cloned to enhance certain properties or to increase market value.
Terpenoids and Flavonoids [of Cannabis]	Terpenoids and flavonoids in cannabis are responsible for flavour and aroma and are also relevant to the felt effects of cannabis, such as whether a strain produces a calming or sedative effect. Each strain of cannabis has its own terpenoid and flavonoid profile which contributes to its "aroma" and effect.
THC	THC is the short term for delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol. THC was originally identified as the compound that accounts for virtually all the pharmacological activity of cannabis. It is the primary psychoactive component of the cannabis plant responsible for the "high" from using cannabis. The euphoric effects of cannabis are primarily attributed to THC, but other cannabinoids have also been shown to have varying levels of psycho-activity.
Unacceptable Behaviour	Learners whose behaviour fails to comply with the School's Learner Code of Conduct and any other related rules, policies and legislation with regard to unacceptable misconduct and/or serious misconduct.
Unlawful Manufacture/distribution	Means the distribution, possession, use, threatened use, storage, sale or the attempted manufacture, distribution, or sale of cannabis and related substances.
Use	Use includes to sell, buy, distribute, dispense, possess, use, drink, eat or be under the influence of Cannabis or testing positive for the use of Cannabis, Cannabis products and/or any other illicit substances, or any mixture containing any of the aforementioned and/or any synthetic drug/substance, herbal substance, whether or not for the purpose of receiving any reward, remuneration or consideration. The definition of 'use' in this policy also includes either wilful, deliberate smoking, inhalation, eating, swallowing or ingestion of any Cannabis products and the use of related paraphernalia.
Vaping	"Vaping" means inhaling and exhaling an aerosol produced by a vaping device, such as an electronic

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Term	Explanation
	cigarette, containing nicotine, cannabis and/or any other liquids or substances.
White Pipe	White pipe is a cannabis-mandrax (Methaqualone) combination.

7.2 Acronyms

Term	Explanation
CPU	Child Protection Unit of SAPS
GN	General Notice of a Government Department/Minister/MEC
HoD	Head of the Gauteng Department of Education
MEC	Member of the Executive Committee
SAPS	South African Police Services
SASA	South African Schools Act, 1996 as amended
SBST	School Based Support Team
SGB	School Governing Body
SMT	School Management Team
THC	Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol

8. APPLICATION AND SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 8.1. This Policy applies to all school employees, educators, learners and visitors within all buildings, vehicles entering the school premises, all school vehicles and outdoor premises owned or leased by the School.

9. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- 9.1. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996.
9.2. The South African Schools Act, Act 84 of 1996, as amended.
9.3. National Regulations for Safety Measures at Schools, GN 1040 of 2001, as amended.
9.4. The Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, Act 140 of 1992.
9.5. Government Notice 1140 of 2008 dated 19 September 2008 - Devices to be used for Drug Testing and the Procedure to be followed issued in terms of Section 8A of the South African Schools Act, Act 84 of 1996, as amended.
9.6. Children's Act, Act 38 of 2005.
9.7. Child Justice Act, Act 75 of 2008.
9.8. Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, Act 140 of 1992.
9.9. Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, Act 101 of 1965, as amended.
9.10. National Health Act, Act 61 of 2003.
9.11. Prevention of Organised Crime Act, Act 121 of 1998.
9.12. Mental Health Care Act, Act 17 of 2002.
9.13. Tobacco Products Control Act, Act 83 of 1993, as amended.

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- 9.14. Sexual Offences and Related Matters Act, Act 32 of 2007.
- 9.15. South African Institute for Drug-Free Sports Act, Act 14 of 1997.
- 9.16. Occupational Health and Safety Act, Act 85 of 1993.
- 9.17. Pharmacy Act, Act 53 of 1974.
- 9.18. The Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act, Act 70 of 2008.
- 9.19. Protection of Personal Information Act, Act 4 of 2013, as amended and related regulations.
- 9.20. Protection from Harassment Act, Act 17 of 2011, as amended and related regulations.
- 9.21. Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act, Act 52 of 2002.
- 9.22. National Policy on the Management of Drug Abuse by Learners in Public and Independent Schools and Further Education and Training Institutions, General Notice 3427 of 2002. (Note some of the regulations have been superseded and/or amended by General Notice 1140 of 2008). For purposes of the school's policy, it refers to counselling by social workers and NGOs as identified in the said National Policy.
- 9.23. Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Act 23 of 2007, as amended and related regulations.
- 9.24. Domestic Violence Act, Act 116 of 1998, as amended.
- 9.25. Regulations Relating to Smoking in Public Places and Certain Outdoor Public Places, Government Notice R 264 of 30 March 2012, as amended.
- 9.26. General Notice 6903 of 2000 as amended.
- 9.27. National Guidelines for the Compilation of a Code of Conduct for School Governing Bodies.

10. RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROVINCIAL CIRCULARS

- 10.1. School Health and Safety Policy.
- 10.2. School Learner Code of Conduct.
- 10.3. School Drug Use Policy.
- 10.4. National Drug Master Plan 4th Edition 2019 To 2024 – National Department of Social Development.
- 10.5. The School's Non-Smoking Policy.
- 10.6. The School's COVID-19 Policy and Protocol.
- 10.7. The School's Anti-Stigmatisation Policy.
- 10.8. The School's Medication Policy.
- 10.9. Code of Conduct of the School for Parents and Visitors.
- 10.10. Department of Health - Health Sector Drug Master Plan as adopted on 7 December 2018 by all Provincial Departments of Health.
- 10.11. DBE National Strategy for the Prevention and Management of Alcohol and Drug Use amongst Learners in Schools.
- 10.12. School Tour Policy.
- 10.13. School Transport Policy.
- 10.14. School Social Media Policy.

11. POLICY STATEMENTS

11.1. The Use of Cannabis

- 11.1.1. Cannabis, an intoxicating substance, also known as marijuana/dagga and other street names, is a product of the plant Cannabis (Strains can include Indica /Sativa). After alcohol, cannabis is the most commonly used psychoactive substance (a drug that affects one's brain) by learners in South Africa. The main active chemical in cannabis, also present in other forms of cannabis, is THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol). Of the roughly 400 chemicals found in the

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- cannabis plant, THC affects the brain the most. It is a mind-altering chemical that gives those who use cannabis a “high”. Hydroponic and indoor produced Cannabis is also on the rise amongst the youth and affluent communities. A newly emerging trend in use is the smoking or eating of different forms of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) - a rich resin extracted from the Cannabis plant. Users refer to this practice as ‘dabbing wax’ or ‘honey’.
- 11.1.2. Cannabis consists of the dried flowers, fruiting tops and leaves from the plant. It is most commonly a greenish or brownish colour. Cannabis resin (or hashish) is a brown or black secretion from the cannabis plant that can be further processed to produce hash oil, wax or “shatter,” a relatively recent by-product of cannabis.
 - 11.1.3. Cannabis is commonly rolled into a cigarette (called a “joint”/or a “zol”) or in a cigar (called a “blunt”) or it’s smoked in a pipe or water pipe (called a “bong”). A single intake of smoke is called a “hit.” Cannabis resin can be vaporized and/or smoked in a pipe or bong (where the smoke is drawn through water before inhaling it). Cannabis can also be brewed as a “tea” or mixed into food and ingested as edible candies, cookies, muffins and brownies. Edibles is sometimes preferred because it won’t be traceable in a urine test after 3 to 4 days. Cannabis can also be laced with other substances (e.g. cocaine). Available evidence suggests that cannabis can also be contaminated with pesticides and other harmful chemicals.
 - 11.1.4. Short-term effects of cannabis include intoxicating feelings of euphoria, continuously laughing at everything, dry mouth (cotton mouth), increase in appetite loss of motor control, talkative, incoherent, being cheeky and obstinate, being insubordinate, relaxed, increased sociability and heightened sensations, problems with memory and learning, distorted perception (sights, sounds, time, touch), difficulty with thinking and problem-solving, body tremors, increased heart rate and anxiety. These effects may be even enhanced when other illicit drugs and toxic substances are mixed with cannabis to be ingested.
 - 11.1.5. There is no single established reason that learners might want to use cannabis. However, at the same time, such consumption cannot be allowed to infringe on the rights, safety and health of others in the school community. Learners may try cannabis for social reasons to “chill” (as a “party drug”), as a way to fit in or socialize with their peers, or because they might have been convinced by another member of their peer group that “everyone is doing it.” Learners may also use cannabis as a mistaken coping mechanism to deal with life stresses or perceived stresses. If a learner is using cannabis as a coping method for anxiety, depression or stress, he or she is more likely to continue this anti-social behaviour. He/she may think, “When I feel stressed out, I smoke dagga and it relaxes me.” Instead of taking time to process and deal with the feeling, he/she alters it by getting “high”, which in turn stunts the emotional coping process.
 - 11.1.6. Contrary to popular belief, cannabis is a highly psychological addictive substance and not a benign substance and its health harms increase with the intensity of use. This is particularly of concern to the school authorities, as frequent use (daily or near-daily) is associated with increased risk of problems with cognitive and psychomotor functioning, respiratory problems, severe physical and mental dependency and eventual mental, socio-economic and other health problems.
 - 11.1.7. Research has shown that THC in cannabis causes an increase in levels of dopamine, the “pleasure chemical” in the brain. This, unfortunately, motivates learners to keep on using this intoxicating substance. Addiction can develop at any age but the youth are especially vulnerable as their brains are still developing as is well documented in the scientific community. Exposure to the phytocannabinoids released during cannabis consumption disrupts the process of brain maturation of youthful persons and affects aspects of memory, attention span, processing speed and overall intelligence.

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- 11.1.8. Cannabis poisoning can occur when accidentally consuming or consuming too much cannabis that can lead to adverse effects in the body. It is also easier to be poisoned when eating or drinking cannabis products. Cannabis poisoning is not generally known to be fatal. It is however very unpleasant and potentially dangerous and may require medical attention. Symptoms can include chest pain, rapid heartbeat, nausea/vomiting, coma, psychotic episode, respiratory depression and severe anxiety and/or panic attack.
- 11.1.9. Smoking of Cannabis involves heating the cannabis product through the process of burning to create a combustion reaction. This helps to release the active ingredients in the product, resulting in smoke that is inhaled. Smoking increases the exposure to harmful chemicals that can lead to lung and heart disease.
- 11.1.10. Vaping of cannabis is the process of heating the cannabis product without burning or combustion. The active ingredients are instead released into a fine mist that is inhaled. While vaping does not result in burning or combustion, it still increases exposure to chemicals that are formed in the heating process and that can be harmful to lung and heart health. These risks are even greater with vaping products that have been purchased from illegal and unregulated sources.
- 11.1.11. Eating Products made with cannabis-infused products are often referred to as “edibles,” which includes any food, drink or tincture that is consumed orally. Edibles’ effects last longer than smoked cannabis. How a user’s body responds will depend on the individual’s metabolism, size and overall health. It’s important for educators to note that cannabis edibles can take up to an hour to have an effect. In contrast to smoking cannabis or physically ingesting cannabis, cannabis edibles have exploded in popularity in recent years. Simply put, edibles are infused with cannabis so that no smoking is required to feel the effects of a cannabis “high.” The effects of edible cannabis can be much stronger because the body processes edible cannabis differently than smoking cannabis. In addition, the range of THC in edibles can vary dramatically.
- 11.1.12. Just like tobacco smoke, cannabis smoke contains tar and other known cancer-causing agents. Regular long-term cannabis smoking has been linked to bronchitis and cancer although this is disputed by some of the advocacy groups for the use of cannabis. Cannabis smokers often hold unfiltered smoke in their lungs for maximum effect, which adds to the risks of using cannabis.

11.2. Misconduct and Transgressions

- 11.2.1. The possession use, including smoking, of cannabis or cannabis product or any cannabis-related edible product in public during any school activity or on or off school premises or while in school uniform or when a learner can be identified as a learner of the school or the depiction of any learner on any social media platform or in the presence of minors or any other learners of the school or when a learner or learners is in any public place where they are likely – by reason of any utterance or conduct on a learner’s part – to be identified by the public as a learner of the School, is not permitted. No learner may cultivate or possess cannabis with the intention of selling, ‘providing on credit’, donating, swapping, supplying, distributing, trading, gifting or any form of exchange, trafficking or dealing there-of which is illegal in terms of legislation
- 11.2.2. The growing, preparation, baking and/or consumption in all forms (eating, smoking, vaping, etc.) of cannabis is prohibited on school property, including school hostels, and/or before/during/at/after any School activities/functions.
- 11.2.3. The display, promotion, sale or offering for sale, sharing or distribution of any cannabis products and/or vaping products is prohibited on school property, including the school hostels or residences, and/or before/during/at/after any School activities/functions.

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- 11.2.4. The School's premises are not 'private'. The school authorities and the SGB may, put in place and implement rules that regulate the possession and use of cannabis by learners of the school. This includes a total prohibition on its use and possession. This is in line with the General Safety Regulation 2A of the Occupational Health and Safety Act as well as SASA and the Learner Code of Conduct and other related policies of the School. Neither may the school allow any learner to have an intoxicating substance such as Cannabis and other product and paraphernalia as referred to in this policy in his or her possession at the school, during any school function and/or activity or where the learner can be identified as a learner of the school under any circumstances or where a learner can be identified where such use and or possession of Cannabis and/or related products are posted on any social media platform.
- 11.2.5. If there is proof on a balance of probabilities that a learner is under the influence of cannabis or has used cannabis or THC is tested positive for being in a learner's system, the principal would be entitled to take disciplinary action. Depending on the circumstances – e.g. the frequency of transgressions and safety considerations, it could result in a disciplinary hearing. The status quo regarding cannabis possession and use, therefore, remains that is not allowed.
- 11.2.6. Any learner who violates the terms of this policy shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the school learner code of conduct, SASA, DBE regulations, other school policies and this policy. Such discipline may include suspension or recommendation to the HoD for permanent expulsion from the school. The learner may also be referred to a drug assistance or rehabilitation program and/or to law enforcement officials when appropriate.

11.3. Health and Safety of the School Community

- 11.3.1. The health and safety of the school community members is a prime consideration in the development and implementation of this Policy.
- 11.3.2. Learners are encouraged to confidentially disclose impairment in the learning environment related to their use of cannabis that may pose a risk to the health and safety of themselves and others. The intention is to assist learners to say no to drugs with the knowledge that they could be tested at school. It is hoped that this knowledge will both deter and provide an "escape" when tempted amongst peers.
- 11.3.3. To make matters more complicated, oftentimes, it can be a challenge for school personnel and to understand and maintain slang terminology, especially as it relates to drugs like cannabis, which likely goes by different slang terminology depending on several factors, including geography. In fact, practical experience has revealed that different groups of learners within the school may use different terminology for the same drug. Thus, there is no possible way to know every slang term for cannabis. To complicate matters, once learners detect that educators and staff have deciphered a particular slang term, learners may develop and adopt new terminology altogether.

11.4. Responsibilities of Role Players

11.4.1. Learners

- a. Must comply with this Policy, other school policies, rules and laws governing cannabis use on school property, including the school hostels or residences, and/or before/during/at/after any School activities/functions.
- b. Notify the school social worker or head of discipline if they are legal medical cannabis-derived product users who require accommodation and provide information regarding their medicinal cannabis use and can show the prescription for the use there-of.

11.4.2. Principal, SMT and SBST

- a. Ensure that learners, educators and staff are aware of this Policy and procedures and are aware of the referral mechanisms for those seeking assistance for problematic substance use.

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- b. Ensure compliance with this Policy, the learner Code of Conduct and other school policies, rules and procedures with regard to testing and disciplinary procedures including that the school may not institute any criminal proceedings against any learner found under the influence or using Cannabis, excluding dealing and distribution at which point the principal may inform SAPS.

11.4.3. **Parent Responsibility**

A parent of a learner has the responsibility to:

- a) accept that the final responsibility of the behaviour of the child rests with the parent;
- b) Adhere to the code of conduct for parents of the school;
- c) take an active role in the learner's educational success;
- d) assist the learner in complying with the Learner Code of Conduct;
- e) assist and support the school in addressing disciplinary issues involving their child;
- f) support the school and the child in the rehabilitation process of the child in a drug rehabilitation programme that excludes incarceration of any kind in a detention facility;
- g) ensure the parent's conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment.

11.5. **Disciplinary Action by the School**

- a. Non-compliance and serious misconduct in terms of this policy, the learner Code of Conduct and other school policies and rules will be subject to the learners' Code of Conduct and General Notice 6903 of 2000, as amended and other related regulations and policies of the GDE and the DBE.
- b. Disciplinary actions must be both corrective and supportive and reflect the range of interventions and responses in terms of the School Code of Conduct and the School Drug Management policy including:
 - i. Universal school interventions;
 - ii. intensive individualised support and rehabilitative programmes by accredited agencies and the school SBST;
 - iii. include opportunities for learners to learn and make amends;
 - iv. focus on improving behaviour; and
 - v. help learners be successful at school
- c. The principal may suspend a learner from the school environment for up to 5 school days prior to a disciplinary hearing in accordance with the applicable GDE prescripts for the transgression of this policy, the Learner Code of Conduct and Schedule 1 and 2 of GN 6903 of 2000, as amended if this policy and the other prescripts have been breached based on the principle of probabilities. This level of consequence/intervention may also be appropriate when:
 - i. the seriousness of the unacceptable misconduct significantly impacts learning and teaching in the school or any school activity/function; or
 - ii. the unacceptable serious misconduct continues to escalate and includes serious unacceptable disruption of classes or frustrates learning and teaching;
 - iii. The learner does not have the ability to control their behaviour.
 - iv. The learner does not want to understand the foreseeable consequences of his/her behaviour.
 - v. unacceptable insubordination and refusal to adhere to lawful instructions;
 - vi. transgressions of Schedule 1 and/or 2 misconduct has taken place in terms of GN 6903 of 2000 as amended.
- d. Suspension is mandatory for learners found giving/supplying/selling cannabis to minors or other learners.
- e. Learners who have been given detention must be under the direct supervision of an educator. Detentions held over the lunch break must make provision for learners to eat. ~~Lunch Detention should not require the learner to miss~~

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instructional time. Detention information including learner name, time of detention, rationale and supervisor must be documented. Parents to be informed of all actions taken involving their child.

- f. The principal also has the discretion not to suspend a learner whose continuing presence in the school does not create an unacceptable risk to the safety of any person.

11.6. Due Process

- 11.6.1. Complaints/charges/investigations and search and seizure made under this policy and other policies/school rules, the Learner Code of Conduct and legislation shall be adjudicated by the principal/SGB/SBST/SMT in a manner that is consistent with the principles of natural justice and fair for all parties. The principles of natural justice based on the principle of a balance of probabilities may be defined broadly as the right to be heard, the obligation to hear the other side and decisions to be made untainted by bias.
- 11.6.2. Any learner, knowingly furnishing false information, knowingly making a false accusation or knowingly reporting a false emergency to any School official or office is subject to disciplinary action by the school.

11.7. Managing Risk and Threat Response

- 11.7.1. All presentations or reports of risk or threat by a learner must be reported to the principal.
- 11.7.2. Where learner conduct presents an immediate risk to the safety or well-being of self, other learners or staff, the Principal and the head of discipline will take steps to mitigate the risk, including but not limited to:
 - a. contacting the parents;
 - b. consulting the SMT, SBST and Social Worker/therapist;
 - c. contacting the CPU of SAPS/Social Services as needed.

11.8. Cannabis Use and Stigmatisation

- 11.8.1. Cannabis use and learners who use cannabis are closely tied to the idea of stigma. Stigma refers to a perceived negative attribute that causes someone to devalue or think less of the whole person. Stigma can have an effect on how learners are treated, including facing discrimination or avoidance and condemnation by others.
- 11.8.2. Cannabis use has traditionally been stigmatised and associated with being 'deviant.' While the meaning and status of cannabis use continue to shift, there are still broader social consequences associated with being known as a cannabis user. A recent report on adolescent cannabis perceptions noted that young people fear being caught by parents or police because they don't want to be labelled as a "drug user." This is generally aligned with stereotypes around frequent cannabis users, such as being known as a "stoner," "pothead," "daggakop" or "druggie."
- 11.8.3. Stigma can act as a barrier in engaging learners in open and honest conversations around cannabis use and their own experiences, and other studies have noted that perceptions of stigma can be a barrier to discussing and admitting problematic cannabis use. It is important that the SGB, SMT and SBST be aware of this barrier, which may mean creating safe spaces for cannabis education dialogue.

11.9. Rehabilitation and Counselling

- 11.9.1. It is the school's policy not to condemn learners but to support those who need help. Where possible, this will be managed in a way that least impacts on the learner's school career.
- 11.9.2. Learners who voluntarily request help and/or those referred by parents or educators will be sent to the school welfare worker. The approach will be one that is non-judgmental and non-disciplinary. The school welfare worker will provide assistance in recommending the best possible course of rehabilitation. An

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appropriate agreement for rehabilitation will be drafted by the school and signed by the learner, the parent/legal guardian, the principal and the school welfare worker. The confidentiality of the Learner and the family is paramount throughout this process.

- 11.9.3. Confidentiality should be maintained at all times by all stakeholders. Whilst the School and its employees can make this professional commitment, real confidentiality will depend on whether or not the learner and/or his/her parents can avoid informing their friends or anyone else.
- 11.9.4. Notifying and informing a learner's parents of the recommendation of the school/disciplinary committee of the SGB of a learner's participation in the programme is critical to the success of the rehabilitation and or intervention programme.
- 11.9.5. This will be discussed and addressed with the learner and his/her parents on entry to the rehabilitation and/or intervention programme and depending on the circumstances above, recognising the need to treat each learner's case sensitively and confidentially, and the School's duty of care towards the learner to the parents.

11.10. Testing for the Use of Cannabis by Learners

11.10.1. Procedure to be followed (Please see Testing Protocol of the School)

- a. The devices must be kept at the school under lock and key.
 - b. The testing kit must be opened in the presence of both the learner who is about to be tested and the witness.
 - c. A learner who is about to be tested must first be asked whether he or she has taken any medicine. Any and all medication should be listed.
 - d. The test must be conducted:
 - i. by a person of the same gender as the learner who must have a SACE number;
 - ii. in the presence of an adult witness who also has a SACE number of the same gender as the learner; and
 - iii. out of sight of any other person.
 - e. The person conducting the test must wear latex gloves.
 - f. The principal or his or her delegate must, in the presence of both the learner and the witness, read the information contained in the package insert before the test is conducted.
 - g. The test must be conducted as prescribed in the package insert of the testing device.
 - h. The package insert/or instructions on the test kit of each device indicates how the result of that test is to be interpreted and the result must be shown to the learner who was tested and the test to be signed off in terms of the school's testing protocol for learners. Clear results can fade/disappear in time so the principal/delegate should take photographic evidence of the test result.
 - i. Parents of the learner must be informed within 24 hours of a school day that the learner was tested and what the result was of the test.
 - j. If a learner refuses to be tested or deliberately delays the testing process, the learner will be deemed as positive for a substance and will be charged accordingly. The Disciplinary panel can only accept a negative test result as proof if the learner can produce a negative test result from a registered institution within a day of the day of testing done at the school.
- 11.10.2. Section 8A of the South African Schools Act, 1996, is a law of general application in that it applies to all schools and is aimed at safeguarding the interest of learners with regard to their right to education, which must take place in an environment free of drugs and dangerous objects. Given that section 8A limits certain rights conferred in the Bill of Rights, it must be implemented with due regard to human dignity, privacy and the right to property of the learners concerned.

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- 11.10.3. Consequences of testing positive - In the event of a positive result, the learner will be required to attend a Principal's enquiry to explain his conduct, in accordance with the provisions of the policy and the principal may recommend further disciplinary steps such as suspension prior to a disciplinary hearing of the SGB.

11.11. Parental consent for Testing of a Learner

- 11.11.1. Parental consent is not a legal requirement for testing.
- 11.11.2. In order to deter the use of Cannabis use, and on admission to the School, parents and learners are required to sign an acknowledgement and consent form showing their support for the School's position on the use, distribution and dealing in Cannabis and other illicit substances and their willingness to be tested where there is a reasonable suspicion based on the principle of a balance of probabilities. Failure to sign the acknowledgement and consent form does not mean the learner may not and cannot be tested.
- 11.11.3. In order to ensure the accuracy and reliability of testing results, it may be that the Principal or his/her delegate determines it necessary to send a sample to a pathology laboratory/referred the learner to a registered rehab centre (SANCA) for testing. This may also take place in circumstances where a multi-test device is not available.

11.12. Cannabis and the Law

- 11.12.1. The school has been declared a drug free and smoke free zone by the Minister of Basic Education which includes the use, possession, smoking and dealing in any cannabis on the school property by any person.
- 11.12.2. The police must be notified of incidents that involve trafficking or possession of illegal drugs.
- 11.12.3. In terms of Section 8(4) of SASA, no learner is exempt from this policy that forms part of the Learner Code of Conduct. Ignorance of this policy is also not an excuse.

11.13. Procedure to be Followed If Cannabis is found in a Learner's Possession (See Annexure for reporting form)

- 11.13.1. Any cannabis/cannabis product/paraphernalia that has been seized (in terms of the school's Search and Seizure Policy) must be clearly and correctly labelled with full particulars, including:
- a. the name and grade learner of the in whose possession it was found;
 - b. the time and date of the search and seizure;
 - c. an incident reference number;
 - d. the name of the person who searched the Learner;
 - e. the name of the witness or witnesses; and
 - f. any other details that may be necessary to identify the item and the incident.
 - g. Any such seizure will be recorded in the school record book. The cannabis drug(s) concerned will be handed over to the South African Police Services for disposal in terms of section 31 of the Criminal Procedure Act, No 51 of 1977.

11.14. Cannabis and COVID-19

- 11.14.1. Smoking and consuming cannabis products can suppress one's immune system and make a person more prone to the infection of COVID-19.
- 11.14.2. Cannabis, including CBD, does not help with preventing or treating COVID-19.

11.15. No Reprisal Clause

- 11.15.1. The school authorities do not condone any reprisal against any employee of the School or learner who acts in accordance with or seeks enforcement of, this policy and the School's No Smoking Policy.

11.16. Grounds for Reasonable Suspicion

- 11.16.1. A search or drug test contemplated above will only be conducted after taking into account all relevant factors, based on the principle of a balance of probabilities including:

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- a. the best interest of the learners in question or of any other learner at the school;
 - b. the safety and health of the learners in question or of any other learner at the school;
 - c. reasonable evidence of illegal activity; and
 - d. all relevant evidence received.
 - e. the reasonable evidence of untoward [serious] misconduct based on the principle of probabilities;
 - f. any other relevant evidence received.
- 11.16.2. Individual symptoms will not be considered as indicators, but a pattern of indicators (e.g. a decline in academic achievement, a lack of willingness to participate in school activities, sleeping in class, change in behaviour, irregular school attendance, bringing the School's name into disrepute) will be investigated. Marked changes in physical appearance may be grounds for suspecting the use of cannabis.

11.17. Disciplinary Action and Consequences for Violating the Policy

- 11.17.1. Any learner found in violation of this policy will be subject to the School's disciplinary code and procedure.
- 11.17.2. An offence in terms of this policy is regarded by the School as extremely serious misconduct in accordance with Schedule 2 (c) (vi) and/or (vii) of General Notice 6903 of 2000 as amended, and one for which a learner may be recommended by the Disciplinary Committee of the SGB for expulsion by the HoD even as a first time offender.
- 11.17.3. If the learner or his /her parents refuses the rehabilitation and counselling route, or it has been unsuccessful, the School principal reserves the right to take recommend appropriate further disciplinary action by the SGB Disciplinary Committee in the form of a hearing.
- 11.17.4. Any evidence obtained against the learner as a result of a drug test or search, whether in the form of a positive drug test or the confiscation of an illegal substance, will not result in criminal proceedings being instituted against the learner.
- 11.17.5. Each case will be dealt with confidentially, but Parents/Legal Guardians will be informed and involved.
- 11.17.6. The School will do its best to create a confidential zone for Learners to speak up if their information is motivated by a willingness to help both with the addiction and interface with Parents.
- 11.17.7. Selected educators, who will be specifically trained in this area, will undertake the investigations and a professional external organisation will be requested to participate in the intervention process.
- 11.17.8. Learners who have been found to have transgressed will be referred to an identified organisation for assessment and treatment.
- 11.17.9. Parents/Legal Guardians will be held responsible for any expenses incurred.
- 11.17.10. If it is established that a Learner is engaged in the use of cannabis/cannabis products, the learner will be required to submit to a rehabilitation programme which will include:
- a. the treatment option as determined by all parties.
 - b. urine testing or another non-invasive testing can take place.
 - c. the control of such testing is the principal's responsibility.
 - d. An expectation that the Learner will improve with respect to behaviour, academic achievement and school attendance.
 - e. The authorisation and support by the Parents/Legal Guardians of the treatment.
 - f. That the designated institution undertaking rehabilitation and treatment will supply the School with progress reports addressed to a designated, trained person.

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- g. Such a report is furnished with the Learner and parent's written consent.
- h. If necessary, the rehabilitation programme can be adapted after negotiation with the relevant parties.
- i. The proviso that if the Parents/Legal Guardians and/or Learner take it upon themselves to stop treatment, the School will consider the rehabilitation programme suspended and the School reserves its right to implement disciplinary procedures, in terms of the Learner Code of Conduct, including disciplinary proceedings.

11.18. Criminal Proceedings

No criminal proceedings may be instituted by the School against a learner in respect of whom a search and seizure were conducted and a dangerous object or illegal drug was found, or a drug testing was conducted, and the test proved to be positive. In other words, once a learner has been subjected to the School's Disciplinary Procedures, he/she may not be subjected concurrently to criminal proceedings by the School.

11.19. Ambiguities

Wherever there is doubt or ambiguity regarding any terminology or provision of the policy or the procedures to be followed, that interpretation or procedure which appears to be the most equitable and consistent with the general purposes and philosophy of the policy and legislation shall be adopted. Except for those terms specifically defined in this policy, the terms used shall have their usual meanings.

12. SHORT TITLE

This policy will be known as the Cannabis Use Policy of the School.

13. POLICY AMENDMENTS AND REVIEW

This Policy shall be reviewed in one year from the effective date or as and when legislation that affects its implementation in and by the school is enacted by Parliament or any Court Order.

14. APPROVAL

Recommended by Principal	A DOWD	Signature:	
Date:			
Approved by SGB Chairperson	M KANTOR	Signature:	
Date:			

SCHOOL STAMP

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15. ANNEXURE A

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS THAT MIGHT POINT TO POSSIBLE CANNABIS USE

1. Physical indicators

- a. Changes in the level of activity - periods of lethargy (common with dagga), or periods of hyperactivity (common with dagga).
- b. Drastic increase or decrease in appetite and craving for sweets and sweet things and sucking of mints to mask the odour of the use of dagga.
- c. Unexplained increase or decrease in weight.
- d. Lack of coordination, staggering or slow movements, dropping of objects, clumsiness and falling.
- e. Altered speech patterns: slurred or garbled speech, expressionless speech, abnormally fast speech, forgetting of thoughts and ideas, incomplete sentences and incoherent conversations.
- f. Unusual shortness of breath, persistent cough, strange odour to breath and clothes (often with dagga).
- g. Red-rimmed, bloodshot or watery eyes, drooping eyelids.
- h. Little sores around the mouth and unexplained chapped or cracked lips (inherent users) and frequent use of lip balm or products such as Zambuck.
- i. Yellow or brown stains on hands.
- j. Continuously runny nose and constant fidgeting with the nose.
- k. Unexplained bleeding of the nose.
- l. Increased susceptibility to infections and colds.
- m. Changes in sleeping habits: staying up all night but sleeping all day or restless sleep.
- n. Changes in physical appearance: drastic changes in the style of clothes, less concerned about appearance, which may become sloppy and unkempt.
- o. Severe agitation, lack of concentration.
- p. Unexplained shaking, tremors, nausea, vomiting and sweats or chills (this can be an early withdrawal symptom).
- q. Distortion of perception of time.
- r. Reaction time slower; the child becomes sluggish.
- s. Unexplained and ongoing headaches.
- t. Drowsiness, especially during the day.
- u. Unusually dreamy, absent demeanour.
- v. Unusually or constantly dry mouth, or exaggerated or constant thirst.

2. Behavioural indicators

- a. Sudden aggressive and violent behaviour, unexplained outbursts of anger and shouting at others.
- b. Unexplained restlessness.
- c. Destructive behaviour, e.g. punching walls, swearing, fighting.
- d. Unusual Frequent requests to go to the bathroom during school or be excused from attending classes.
- e. Unexplained irritability.
- f. Lack of motivation - sudden loss of interest in hobbies or sport previously enjoyed.
- g. Ongoing episodes of unexplained giggling.
- h. Sudden apathy towards life in general.
- i. Loitering around the school instead of being in class or at another activity.
- j. Disrupting class and frustrating teaching and learning.
- k. Insubordination, cheekiness and disobedience.
- l. Refuses to work in class.
- m. Borrowing money and/or have large sums of cash money in his/her possession.
- n. Ignoring responsibilities at work, school or home.
- o. Giving up activities that they used to find important or enjoyable.

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- p. Changing friends.
- q. Having difficulties with family members, friends and peers.
- r. Being secretive or dishonest.

3. Emotional indicators

- a. Sudden unexplained and ongoing nervousness.
- b. Low self-esteem.
- c. Decreased sense of responsibility.
- d. Sudden feelings of depression, despondency and hopelessness.
- e. Severe mood alterations, or mood swings, from euphoria to sudden anxiety and depression, and sudden hypersensitivity.
- f. Alterations in thought patterns strange and bizarre thinking, hallucinations, paranoid delusions, abnormal suspiciousness, depressing thoughts, and suicidal thoughts.

4. Social indicators

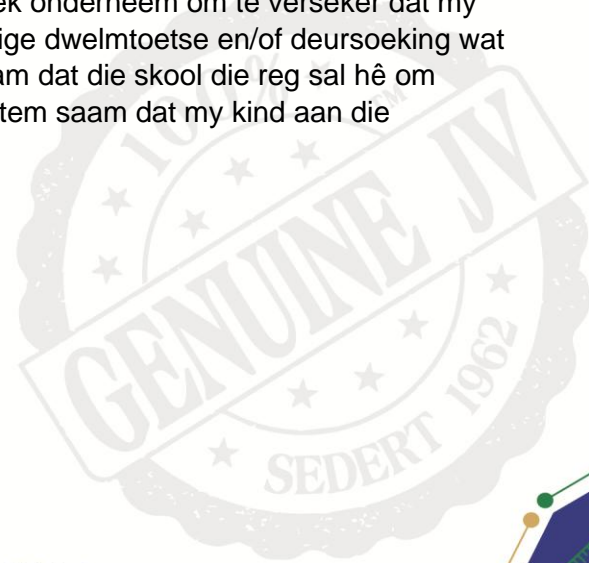
- a. Sudden withdrawal from family and friends.
- b. Sudden secretiveness, deviousness, vagueness, lies and deceit.
- c. Sudden change in friends, with the new friends usually older and/or suspected of using drugs, and a reluctance to introduce friends to family.
- d. A decline in school performance overall lack of motivation with regard to schoolwork.
- e. Regular truancy, especially on Monday's school attendance register can be utilised to obtain an overall view of absenteeism.
- f. Resentment towards all authority and disregard of all rules (at school, home, etc.).
- g. Disappearing for periods of time without being able to account for that time, e.g. coming home late at night or missing classes at school.
- h. Unusual interest in money.
- i. "Lost" clothes or equipment, or money that cannot be accounted for.
- j. In possession of cell phones and other property that does not belong to him/her.
- k. Sells items to other learners without the authority of the school.
- l. In possession of containers with sweets cakes, muffins or other baked goods that are not related to the learner's lunch.
- m. In possession or uses paraphernalia associated with Cannabis use.

16 ANNEXURE B (PART OF CONTRACT OF SCHOOL)

Ek erken dat ek, die ouer van genoemde leerder, die Verbode middelbeleid (soos op die webblad van die skool beskikbaar is) gelees het en ek onderneem om te verseker dat my kind die genoemde beleid sal volg. Ek stem in tot enige dwelmtoetse en/of deursoeking wat die skool mag doen wat my kind betrek. Ek stem saam dat die skool die reg sal hê om bogenoemde dissiplinêre prosedures te volg en ek stem saam dat my kind aan die opgelegde sanksie sal voldoen.

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INFO SHEET- SOUTH AFRICAN HELPLINES

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) South Africa

Worldwide fellowship for alcoholics supporting those choosing to be sober. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. National helpline: 0861 HELPAA (435 722). See the AA website for a directory of provincial contact numbers and local “meeting rooms”.

Al-Anon

Al-Anon Family Groups is for the families and friends of problem drinkers, with a special section – Alateen – for children of alcoholics, and a group for adult children of alcoholics.

Helpline: 0861 ALANON (25 26 66)

Main office: (021) 595-4508

E-mail: help@alanon.org.za

Website: www.alanon.org.za

Narcotics Anonymous SA

NA is a non-profit organisation for recovering drug addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean.

National 24-hour helpline: 083 900 MY NA (083 900 69 62)

Website: www.na.org.za

SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence

SANCA provides specialised and affordable prevention and treatment services for alcohol and other drug dependence. A national body established in 1956, it has independently operated societies and counselling centres in all nine provinces. SANCA – Johannesburg: 08611 REHAB (73422) or (011) 673-0400 or sanca-jhb.org.za

Department of Social Development’s Substance Abuse Line Offers support, guidance and help for people addicted to drugs and alcohol as well as their families. Run in partnership with the SA Depression and Anxiety Group. National toll-free helpline: 0800 12 13 14 or SMS 32312.

ChildLine South Africa

Assistance from trained counsellors for abused children, young people, and their families. Not-for-profit organisation.

24-hour toll-free helpline: **08000 55 555**

Information, support and assistance to children and their families. Issues dealt with include physical and sexual abuse, substance abuse, behavioural problems, legal advice and trafficking.

Website: www.childline.org.za

Child Welfare South Africa

The coordinating body for more than 260 affiliated child welfare societies, organisations and community outreach projects. It is the largest non-profit, non-governmental organisation in South Africa in the fields of child protection and childcare and family development.

Report neglect or abuse of a child: 0861 4 CHILD (24453)

National: (011) 452-4110

E-mail: info@childwelfare.org.za

Website: www.childwelfare.org.za

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Police Child Protection Units

The South African Police Service's Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit special police units investigate violent crimes against children and offer specialised services to child victims of crime. There are units around the country.

Emergency number: 10111

Crime Stop: 08600 10111

Report cases of child abuse for police investigation: childprotect@saps.org.za

Website: FCS Unit

Women in crisis

People Opposed to Woman Abuse (Powa)

Gauteng-based organisation offering shelter, counselling and legal support to women in abusive relationships, rape survivors, survivors of incest.

Helpline: 083 765 1235

www.powa.co.za

Stop Gender Abuse

Crisis counselling for women who have been raped or abused, advice and support for people wanting to support women in need of help, legal and other options available for abused women and rape survivors. Run by LifeLine Southern Africa.

Toll-free helpline: 0800 150 150

ADHD Helpline

0800 55 55 33

Suicide Crisis Line

0800 567 567

The South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) Health Line

(011) 234 4837

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18 ANNEXURE D

INFO SHEET

CANNABIS [Dagga]

WHAT IS IT?

Cannabis is derived from the plant *Cannabis sativa*. The main active ingredient responsible for the 'high' produced by cannabis is called delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Cannabis is produced in three main forms:

- **Cannabis herb (also known as marijuana)** – Greenish-gray mixture of dried, shredded leaves, stems, seeds, and/or flowers.
- **Cannabis resin (also known as hashish)** – the resin (a secreted gum) of the cannabis plant.
- **Cannabis oil (also known as hash oil)** – a thick sticky, black liquid (hash oil) obtained from hashish. While hashish and hash oil contain more THC than marijuana, they are not widely used in South Africa.

Cannabis is usually smoked in hand-rolled cigarettes (joints) or in pipes or water pipes (bongs). It is also smoked in blunts—cigars that have been emptied of tobacco and refilled with a mixture of marijuana and tobacco. Cannabis smoke has a pungent and distinctive, usually sweet-and-sour, odour. Cannabis is also vaped and often mixed with tobacco or other drugs. It is also sometimes added to food and eaten such as 'space cakes/muffins' or drank as a "tea". Learners say you are "goofed [from "weed"]" when you are on a Cannabis high.

Cannabis is also known as Grass, Pot, Dope, Joints, Mull, Hydro, Yarndi, Ganja, Bud or Buddha, Mary Jane, Dagga, Marijuana, Green, 420, Blunt, Doobie, Dope, Ganja, Herb, Joint, Pot, Reefer, Sinsemilla, Skunk, Smoke, Stinkweed, Trees, Weed. When added to a hollowed-out cigar: Blunt. Hashish is also known as Boom, Gangster, Hash, and Hemp. Cannabis concentrates is also known as Budder, Crumble, Shatter, Wax and in food, it is normally referred to as "edibles".

Although users mostly dispute it, Cannabis is normally the "gateway" drug to other addictive hardcore drugs and according to UN Office on Drugs and Crime report of November 2019, cannabis is the most widely used drug worldwide with an estimated 188 million people have used the drug in 2018. Contrary to common belief, Cannabis is addictive. Estimates from research suggest that about 9 per cent of users become addicted to Cannabis; this number increases among those who start young (to about 17 per cent, or 1 in 6) and among daily users (to 25-50 per cent). Thus, many of the nearly 7 per cent of high-school seniors who (according to annual survey data) report smoking Cannabis daily or almost daily are well on their way to addiction, if not already addicted (besides functioning at a sub-optimal level all of the time).

EFFECTS OF CANNABIS

If smoked, the effects are often felt quickly as THC is rapidly absorbed into the lungs and can enter the bloodstream within minutes.

The effects of cannabis vary, but may include:

IMMEDIATE	LONG TERM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loss of inhibitions• Feeling relaxed or drowsy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dependence• Problems with memory and learning

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IMMEDIATE	LONG TERM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased appetite • Loss of coordination • Bloodshot eyes • Dryness of the mouth and throat • Lethargy • 'Greening out' (sweaty, dizzy, nausea, vomiting) • Anxiety and panic attacks • Paranoia and psychosis • Increased heart rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased motivation and concentration and no interest in any schoolwork or school activities or being in class • Increased risk of respiratory diseases and chronic cough • Paranoia and psychosis

OTHER HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES

THC vaping products mixed with the filler Vitamin E acetate (and possibly other chemicals) has led to serious lung illnesses and deaths also known as "popcorn lung". Pregnancy: babies born with problems with attention, memory, and problem-solving.

Research has shown that Cannabis's negative effects on attention, memory and learning can last for days or weeks after acute effects of the drug wear off. Daily use causes learners to function at a reduced intellectual level most of or all the time. This can result in lower marks, repeatedly being involved in disciplinary hearings, expulsion from school and/or dropping out of school.



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INFO SHEET - DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

The discovery of drug paraphernalia can be strong evidence that someone is using distributing or dealing with Cannabis. A person can spot paraphernalia if they know which type of drug the person may be using and which methods of consumption he/she are using. Drug paraphernalia is defined as "any equipment that is used to produce, conceal, and consume an illicit drug.

Smoking Pipes, Bongs, Bubbler, and Hookah

All of these types of paraphernalia are used to smoke the drug.

- Pipes can be made of wood, glass, porcelain, metal, and other materials. Pipes tend to require metallic screens to keep the user from inhaling ash.
- A bong is a long tubular water pipe, usually made of plastic with a bowl attached. A bong uses water or other liquids like wine to filter the smoke.
- A hubbly bubbly is a combination of a pipe and a bong, allowing for the filtration system provided by a bong to be portable.
- A hookah is a traditional smoking device from the Middle East and Turkey. It usually is quite ornate, made of brass or a cheaper imitator, with a rope-like tube attached for smoking. Hookahs are often disguised as decorative pieces and can be purchased at several tobacconists and other shops.

Rolling Papers, Tobacco Blunts, Grinders, and Roach Clips

These kinds of cannabis paraphernalia are used to process and smoke the drug.

- Rolling papers like Rizzlas are used to roll the drug into a joint or cannabis cigarette
- Blunt is inexpensive, store-bought cigars that cannabis smokers hollow out and fill with cannabis.
- Cigarette lighters, matches and/or other types of fire lighting devices.
- Grinders are small metal tins, sometimes designed to look like the Death Star from Star Wars or even a Rubik's Cube. They grind up the drug for use.
- Roach clips are metal clasps that hold a joint to prevent burning the fingers.

Vaporizers, Vape Pens, and Dabs

Used for tobacco as well, these are kinds of paraphernalia that are popular because they hide smells.

- Vaporizers, in many forms, can be used for weed, hash, liquids, and hash oil.
- Vape pens are smaller than larger vaporizers, often with pre-filled cartridges.
- Dabbing is the bong of vaping, and similar to freebasing in other drugs. These elaborate contraptions tend to be made of glass and almost medical-looking and are for sale in several shops in South Africa.

Deceptive Paraphernalia vs. Glamorized Paraphernalia

Many drug paraphernalia sellers focus on deception. Hence, they sell devices that do not appear to be marijuana paraphernalia. Therefore, such paraphernalia may look like items related to teen hobbies, such as skateboarding or music. And teens are drawn to such because they want to hide use from their parents. Side-by-side with the deceptive paraphernalia, glamorised paraphernalia has become increasingly popular. In bright and bold colours, with or without 'bling' these devices reflect the interests of learners from popular movies and rock bands to video gaming and other teen trends and as seen on social media Apps and other platforms.

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LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT IN CANNABIS INCIDENTS AND POSSIBLE RESPONSES (SANCTIONS) BY THE SCHOOL (Also refer to the School's Code of Conduct). This list and responses are not exhaustive and may be added to or changed according to the school's requirements/code of conduct and levels of sanctions).

Level of Involvement	Possible Response
Knowing about Cannabis use at school but not informing an educator/the head of discipline/the principal/the school social worker/therapist	Counselling by Social Worker Debit Points Referral to parents Possible Disciplinary Action/Hearing depending on the Incident or being present.
Requesting cannabis from another learner on the school premises (request not fulfilled)	Counselling by Social Worker/psychologist Debit Points withdrawal of privileges Referral to parents Possible suspension prior to a hearing Possible Disciplinary Action/Hearing depending on the Incident.
Being present when other learners use or supply cannabis on the school premises	Counselling by Social Worker/ psychologist Debit Points withdrawal of privileges Referral to parents Possible Disciplinary Action/Hearing depending on the Incident.
Entering the school premises or attending school functions in an intoxicated condition or testing positive for Cannabis.	Counselling by Social Worker/ psychologist Suspension prior to a hearing Referral to parents Disciplinary Action/Hearing depending on the Incident.
Smoking Cannabis on the school premises or at school functions/activities	Issuance of written warning for breach of school rules Referral to parents Referral to the stop-smoking programme and/or counselling
Repeatedly smoking Cannabis on the school premises or at school functions	Referral to parents Possible Disciplinary hearing Referral for Intervention
Smoking a vaper on the school premises or at school functions/activities	Issuance of written warning for breach of school rules Referral to parents Referral to the stop-smoking programme and/or counselling
Repeatedly smoking a vaper on the school premises or at school functions	Referral to parents Possible Disciplinary hearing
Using cannabis on the school premises or at school functions/activities	Referral to parents Referral to alcohol use programme and/or counselling Suspension prior to a hearing

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Level of Involvement	Possible Response
	Disciplinary Hearing
Supplying Cannabis on the school premises or at school functions	Referral to parents Referral to Cannabis use programme and/or counselling Suspension prior to a hearing Disciplinary Hearing
Possessing or using a small quantity of Cannabis substance on the school premises or at a school function/activity	Referral to parents Referral to drug use programme and/or counselling/rehab programme Suspension prior to a hearing Disciplinary Hearing
Continuing to possess or use a small quantity of Cannabis substance on school premises or at a school function	Referral to parents Referral to drug use programme and/or counselling/rehab programme Suspension prior to a hearing Disciplinary Hearing
Supplying/selling of Cannabis/Cannabis products to other learners	Referral to parents Referral to drug use programme and/or counselling/rehab programme Suspension prior to a hearing Disciplinary Hearing Contact SAPS if the situation warrants it
Repeatedly or continues supplying/selling of Cannabis/Cannabis products to other learners	Referral to parents Suspension prior to a hearing Disciplinary Hearing Contact SAPS
Possessing a large quantity of Cannabis/ Cannabis products on school premises or at a school function	Referral to SAPS Notification of parents Suspension prior to a hearing Disciplinary Hearing
Selling or supplying a large quantity of Cannabis/ cannabis products minors on the school premises or at a school function/activity	Referral to SAPS Notification of parents Suspension prior to a hearing Disciplinary Hearing
Continuing to sell or supply Cannabis products substances while on school premises or at a school function	Referral to SAPS Notification of parents Suspension prior to a hearing Disciplinary Hearing
Grooming/coercing of other learners to use Cannabis products	Referral to parents Suspension prior to a hearing Disciplinary Hearing
Using or supplying vaper/vaper and Cannabis products to others	Referral to parents Referral to drug use programme and/or counselling/rehab programme Suspension prior to a hearing Disciplinary Hearing

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