

Bosmansdam High School

Drug Policy 2007

INTRODUCTION

It is generally accepted that there is increasing pressure on our teenagers to experiment, use and abuse, not only legal substances like tobacco and alcohol, but other illegal and addictive drugs/ substances.

The solutions to this social problem necessarily involves, not only the afflicted individual and his or her parents, but also the wider community, because the problem also affects the wider community of the school, and all it's teachers, students and parents, as well as the Bothasig community at large and it's surrounding communities.

The school has a responsibility to :

1. direct students who use drugs, and their parents, to undergo rehabilitation programmes run by trained professionals
2. protect students who do not use drugs from influence and pressure to do so
3. to all it's parents, teachers and students to strive for a drug- free learning environment
4. to the community at large to co-operate with the South African Police Services (SAPS) by passing on relevant information to bring about arrests, wherever possible



For this reason, a drug policy is necessary to achieve the following **aims** :

1. to encourage parents to take responsibility for the behaviour of their children within the school environment and for the whereabouts and behaviour of their children outside the school environment
2. to encourage students to take responsibility for their own actions and for the acquaintances they keep, both within and outside the school environment
3. to counteract the increasing availability of drugs within and outside the school environment
4. to counteract the pressure on teenagers to succumb to the sly, cowardly and subtle tactics of drug-dealers
5. to enable/facilitate rehabilitation, where appropriate, for drug-users who willingly seek help to escape their affliction
6. to apply internal and/or Departmental disciplinary measures against serious offenders, repeat offenders, dealers and /or unco-operative parties, where appropriate
7. to provide relevant information to the SAPS to assist them in their efforts to arrest those who break the law.



The following **procedures** can be followed to achieve the aims as stated above:

1. Any information received about a student using, dealing in, or possessing drugs must be passed on to the Standard Head, Deputy Headmaster, or Headmaster, depending on the severity of the case, for further investigation.
2. The principal has the right, based on reasonable suspicion and/or the information obtained, to conduct a search, or to instruct a staff member of the same gender as the potential offender, to conduct a search with regard to prohibited substances.
3. The principal also may exercise the right to conduct random drug-testing, should it be deemed necessary.
4. Should such information concerning drug possession/use be substantiated, a meeting with the parents and student should be arranged to discuss the extent and scope of the drug problem.
5. The school will provide direction concerning rehabilitation programmes which exist, and may request the family to provide proof that the afflicted student is undergoing such a rehabilitation programme
6. The Governing Body will be kept informed by the Headmaster of all substantiated cases of drug- use/dealing/possession
7. Internal disciplinary measures, according to the Code of Conduct of the school, may be instituted, at the discretion of the Governing Body, against students found guilty by the Governing Body of drug related offences.
8. The Governing Body may also decide, according to the Education Act, to request suspension, or expulsion of such students, by the Western Cape Education Department.
9. Any relevant information which may assist the SAPS in their efforts against drug-dealing, and drug-use, will be passed on to them by the school

other suggestions:

- a drug-policy needs to be ratified by the Governing Body
- once ratified, it needs to be circulated to Parents and students and SAPS and WCED
- a teacher needs to be set free to follow up drug related information or investigations and or counseling within the school day (at least 8-10 periods a week) , this could be a deputy, or Guidance counselor, and also to meet parents in afternoon. This teacher would need to NOT do any other extra-murals, but would be expected to keep a log of his activities/meetings/progress to address the 40 or more students who allegedly use drugs and their parents. This would be an on-going activity through-out the school-year, every year.
- during investigations the overriding attitude should be one of concern, rather than of moral judgement and discipline. More information is gathered this way. Once information has been gathered, then remedial and/or firm disciplinary steps can be taken if necessary
- the onus for rehabilitation of the teenager must be placed where it belongs..... with the parent and a trained professional counselor. Teachers are generally not trained for such work and have other duties to perform in any event
- ongoing correspondence with all parents via newsletters should continually remind them of their responsibility for the whereabouts and actions and behaviour of their children, and of the dangers of poor parenting, bad friendships and drug-use..... ultimately they, the parents, are partly responsible for their child's drug problem.

