



DRAKENSBERG

BOYS CHOIR SCHOOL

Substance Abuse Policy (2017)

The DRAKENSBERG BOYS' CHOIR SCHOOL is an Independent School and member of ISASA, specialising in Choral Education and Performance.

The DBCS, a specialising Independent School, accommodates learners from grade 4 - 9 who have indicated a special interest and talent in the field of the above mentioned discipline and will receive tuition in Choral Education parallel to their normal academic curriculum.

The DBCS, as a Middle School for boys with compulsory boarding requirements, can accommodate a maximum of 130 learners.

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This policy has been drawn up in order to confront the reality of substance abuse in a responsible and constructive manner. Where substance abuse occurs, the underlying aim is to change behaviour rather than enact punitive measures, and in doing so develop and maintain healthy levels of self-confidence and self-worth. While it will always be the DBCS's aim to help in situations of abuse, it must be stressed that the DBCS will always view the possession, exchange and use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs or related equipment in a very serious light. Any such behaviour could result in the matter being handed over to the necessary authorities for investigation.

This policy needs to be read in conjunction with the DBCS's Code of Conduct and other policy documents. The DBCS will endeavour to review and adapt this policy when necessary in conjunction with all its stakeholders.

5.2 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

- < The DBCS acknowledges that we are part of a greater community, and are in partnership with parents to ensure the best for their children.
- < The DBCS will always endeavour to ensure a safe environment, free of all substance abuse, in which learners will not be exposed to harmful substances.
- < The DBCS realises that a wide variety of substances are available to our learners. We believe that substance abuse is harmful to an individual's normal development, and we encourage a healthy, drug-free life. In order to do this we seek to empower learners to say NO to drugs.
- < It is our policy to support those of our learners who need help in this area and who can benefit from help.
- < The DBCS does not condone the inappropriate use of alcohol, tobacco or any other potentially harmful substance by any member of its community.
- < The DBCS will not tolerate the possession and use of prohibited substances and it opposes the abuse and misuse of legal drugs.



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5.3 THIS POLICY APPLIES:

- < on the premises of the DBCS.
- < at any activity organised by the DBCS.
- < where a learner represents the DBCS or is identified as belonging to the DBCS.

5.4 UNDERTAKING

The DBCS will endeavour to:

- < present age appropriate prevention and information sessions to all learners so as to actively empower them to deal with the many aspects of the issue.
- < present education and prevention sessions to parents, and to supply information about internal and external support structures when needed.
- < make information and training available to educators.
- < provide an on-campus counselling service.
- < involve outside organisations on a consultation basis.
- < support the idea of a healthy life, free of substance abuse.
- < implement a learner-support structure, if this is deemed necessary.

5.5 SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The use of mood-altering or habit-forming substances by learners (without a doctor's guidance) will not be tolerated.

Learners may not:

- < use or possess prohibited substances (eg. dagga, ecstasy, cocaine etc.).
- < use or possess prescribed/non-prescribed medicines inappropriately (eg. ritalin, panado).
- < use or possess solvents, inhalants or other chemical agents inappropriately (eg. thinners).
- < use or possess tobacco, alcohol or other drugs.
- < use or possess drug-related equipment (eg. cigarette rollers, lighters and paper).
- < be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- < consume alcoholic beverages.
- < be involved in procuring, or in transacting in, such substances.

The DBCS recognises its responsibility to intervene if, in the DBCS's opinion, a learner's substance abuse outside school influences his achievement, behaviour or attendance; or if it is likely to influence other learners negatively. This intervention will be in accordance with the Action Guidelines (par 5.7)



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5.6 CONFIDENTIALITY

This policy recognises the following:

- < a learner may use the services of the appointed DBCS counsellor who will explain the conditions of confidentiality before giving counselling. As a result of the ethics of the counselling professions, there may well be circumstances in which the DBCS counsellor will not pass on information to parents or educators disclosed in the course of counselling.
- < in the event of a learner informing a teacher about substance abuse by him/herself or another person, educators are not able to maintain absolute confidentiality as the DBCS has a legal and professional responsibility to inform parents.
- < the DBCS reserves the right, where it is deemed necessary, to inform the learner body and broader school community of any situation involving transgressions of the Code of Conduct. However, the DBCS will strive to protect the privacy and dignity of learners in all circumstances.

5.7 ACTION GUIDELINES

Considering the breadth of this problem in our society, the DBCS encourages open communication in the best interest of the school community. Further, in every case of substance abuse, it must be recognised that counselling, skills training and self-image support are always appropriate means to deal with the situation at DBCS. The DBCS's intervention will always be to educate and rehabilitate, and not simply to punish. In the event of suspected, confirmed or self-acknowledged substance abuse, the DBCS reserves the right to act in terms of its disciplinary procedures or these guidelines, or both the disciplinary procedures and these guidelines, as it deems appropriate:

- < Each case will be considered individually.
- < Each case will be dealt with confidentially (as described in para 5.6), and parents will be informed and involved. In the event of suspicion of drug abuse, parents will be asked to arrange for an appropriate drug test at their own cost, and to inform the DBCS of the results.
- < An agreement will be drawn up between the learner, parents and DBCS. This agreement will specify, *inter alia*:
 - what treatment the learner should undergo
 - whether a report should be supplied to the DBCS detailing the learner's progress in treatment
 - what further testing will be carried out where this is deemed necessary
 - standards of work and levels of behaviour that the DBCS will require from the learner
 - consequences for breach of contract.
- < Failure to comply with the request (par 7, second item) or with the need to draw up an agreement (par 7, third item) may result in parents being required to remove the learner/s from the DBCS.
- < Bearing in mind that each case will be dealt with individually, where disciplinary procedures are seen to be necessary by the DBCS, the consequences that may result include the following and



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must be considered in conjunction with the Code of Conduct:

5.2.6.3 General: Smoking, the consumption of alcohol, and the consumption of dangerous, forbidden or illegal substances, whether on the DBCS estate or off, are regarded as extremely serious offences. Learners found in possession of these will result in disciplinary procedures which may include suspension/expulsion.

EXPULSION FROM THE DBCS:

In the case of using or possessing illegal drugs, or procuring and/or transacting in and/or distributing legal or illegal drugs or alcohol.

Where the offence is governed by any South African law or statute, the DBCS may require the South African Police Service to investigate the matter and to institute legal proceedings.

I have read and hereby accept the above Policy on Substance Abuse of the Drakensberg Boys' Choir School.

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Signed

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Date