



Rationale

The use of liquor, cannabis and the misuse of illicit drugs and intoxicants have a negative effect on a student's capacity to learn. In addition, it can also have a negative impact on the overall school climate. While the school has an obligation to educate students about the dangers associated with the use of these it also has an obligation to take strong measures to prevent the use within the school context.

Definitions

Controlled substances refers to cannabis and illicit drugs.

Disruption – disturbance or problems which interrupt an event, activity, or process.

Liquor means, subject to the regulations, beer, wine, spirits or other product that is intended for human consumption and that contains more than 1% liquor by volume

Natural justice – includes the principles of procedural fairness and ensuring a fair decision is reached by an objective decision maker.

Procedural fairness refers to fair and proper procedures being used when making a decision (right to be heard and unbiased decision maker).

Policy

The possession and/or use of liquor, cannabis, and illicit drugs by students, in schools, on school property or during school related activities, breaches the school code of conduct.

Regulation

General

1. Schools shall ensure that the educational programs include components designed to increase students' knowledge of the facts relating to liquor, cannabis and illicit drugs.



2. All cases of possession, distribution and/or use of liquor, cannabis or illicit drugs, on school premises or at school related activities, shall result in the application of standard student suspension procedures.
3. School officials will co-operate with law enforcement agencies in surveillance of the distribution and/or selling of liquor and cannabis and/or trafficking of illicit drugs on school premises.

Detail

1. Staff members/supervisors observing students suspected of possession, distribution or use of liquor, cannabis or controlled substances shall document the findings and report the incident to the principal/designate.
2. School administration, after following procedural fairness, will suspend a student who is found to be using liquor, cannabis, or illicit drugs at school related activities. The Principal shall contact the parents/guardians in such cases.
3. Subsequent to meeting the student's immediate need (medical attention, legal guidance, parental/guardian contact), remedial assistance should be sought for the student by the family and the school counsellor. The following agencies should be considered for help:
 - Alcoholics Anonymous
 - Narcotics Anonymous.
4. For persons found to be distributing controlled substances (illicit drugs and cannabis) and/or liquor, the following applies:
 - 4.1 The position of the Board of Directors is that the distribution of controlled drugs and/or liquor is a criminal offence and that all personnel in a school are expected to act as citizens who support the law. Therefore, there should be no hesitation by administrators to inform the police about a student caught, or suspected of being a distributor of controlled substances and/or liquor.
 - 4.2 A student found to be distributing controlled substances and/or liquor on school premises, or at school related functions, shall be reported to police and suspended indefinitely following a thorough investigation by school authorities. Part of the investigation should



determine the effect of the student's behaviour on the moral well-being of the school.

- 4.3 In the event of an indefinite suspension, parents will have the right to request for their child’s reinstatement to the school from Local School Council. A special hearing will be called for that purpose. Request for the reinstatement and the hearing is to be done through the Principal’s within seven (7) calendar days of notice of the suspension. (see policy 315A and 506).

NOTE: International students and their families do not have the right to appeal an indefinite suspension or expulsion.

- 4.4 In all dealings school officials will follow principles of procedural fairness and natural justice.

Reference:	Approved
	Date Approved:
Cross-reference Policies 320 - Use of Tobacco and Vapour Products 506 - Suspension/Expulsion 315A - Major Complaints and Appeals from Students and their Parents	Date(s) Revised: June 2005; February 2014; January 31, 2017; January 28, 2020