



# PEPONI

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## SCHOOL

# Drugs Policy

To be reviewed by:	Headmaster, Peponi School
Date of Policy:	November 2012
Review Frequency:	Annually
Review Date:	September 2025

## Background

At Peponi School we define and include substances within the term “drugs” as materials that have or can have the effect of altering a person’s thinking and behaviour. In this definition, we include all substances banned under law and some of those that are considered socially acceptable. This includes alcohol and tobacco. However, our policies for alcohol and tobacco are dealt with in separate policy documents. This policy is designed to include all illegal drugs, such as marijuana, and those substances that are not illegal but we consider to be dangerous to health, such as miraa. Peponi School actively prohibits the use of all such drugs.

Our purpose at Peponi is to seek to educate our pupils into an informed rejection of the contemporary drug culture and to prevent pupils from illegal use of all drugs. The illegal use of a drug is taken very seriously by the school authorities and can lead to the expulsion of the pupil. Illegal use of a drug on the school campus or on a school trip will result in expulsion. The school recognizes that drugs are widely available and are being used by many members of society, particularly by young adults. It is a problem that must be faced by all sectors of society and especially by the school and its parent body.

While the implementation of the policy is based upon trust and understanding between pupils, staff and parents and in the best interest of all pupils in the school, it is also meant to act as a positive and effective deterrent.

## Approach

Peponi School takes its responsibility for the education of its pupils very seriously, particularly in view of the increasing difficulties posed by the world at large. Our approach towards the use of drugs is twofold.

- i. Firstly, we provide educational pathways to explain the risks to health and the legal position. We endeavour to create a culture that empowers the individual to say “NO” to experimentation and misuse.
- ii. Secondly, by providing a firm and transparent disciplinary framework for pupils involved in any incident relating to drug misuse. Expulsion will remain a definitive punishment for those involved in the use or the supply of drugs. The school will maintain an active policy of discouragement. Drugs Policy

## Implementation

### Prevention through Education

- i. Throughout their time at Peponi School pupils will take part in a continuing programme of education and support about drugs. We aim to ensure that pupils are fully aware of the dangers of taking drugs both to themselves and their community. This is initially done through PSHE classes and tutorials where pupils get an opportunity to discuss issues as they arise.
- ii. We aim to regularly update pupils, parents and staff on the developments in drug misuse and aim to ensure that sensible discussions can take place and decisions can be made when required. Regular visits from the medical profession, law enforcement agencies, the legal profession and specific people with appropriate experience are made to the school and pupils are provided with an opportunity to meet them and discuss issues.

### Suspicion of Misuse

- i. Any member of our community who has a reason to suspect that drugs are being used should report the situation to any member of the Senior Management Team or the Housemaster/mistress of the pupil concerned. The Headmaster or the Deputy Head (Pastoral) will decide if further investigation and/or a drugs test is/are warranted.
- ii. If there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has been misusing a drug test will be administered. An appointed medical authority will do this. The results of all tests that do not lead to any disciplinary action will remain confidential between the Headmaster, the pupil's parents and the pupil.
- iii. Parents' consent to their son or daughter being tested for the use of any drug by their acceptance of the School's Terms and Conditions when their child joins the school.
- iv. Any pupil who is asked to provide a sample for testing by the appointed medical authority will be carefully guided through the testing procedure. Priority will be given to ensure that the pupil understands that there is no presumption of guilt beforehand. Any events leading to suspicion will be clearly explained.
- v. Any refusal to provide appropriate samples for testing will render the pupil liable to expulsion.

### Discipline following misuse

- i. The misuse of any drug on the school campus or during any school activity that is occurring off the campus will lead to serious disciplinary action; this can include expulsion. The first offense involving a drug will lead to suspension from the school. Pupils Involved In drugs taking or supply will need to spend time with their parents. On return to school a period of internal suspension can be expected. A record of the warning and offense will be held in by the Deputy Head Pastoral. Any further offense will lead to expulsion. Whilst the school considers the abuse of drugs very seriously, it is aware of its role as an educator and will attempt to support pupils through challenging times. However, repetition of such behaviour and a development of behavioural traits that are not conducive to a school environment will not be tolerated and expulsion can be expected. The supply of any drug to any member of the school community will be treated similarly but consideration of the validity of having such a person in this community will be taken and expulsion can be expected. The Headmaster will consult with the Board of Directors before any final decision is made before making the final decision regarding expulsion. All pupils who have, in any way, been involved in any disciplinary action regarding the use or supply of any drug will be required to receive external professional counselling. Any expenses incurred by external health and counselling provision will be paid for by parents/guardians.
- ii. The school retains the right to ask any pupil to submit to a drugs test. The requirement for such a test will be explained to the pupil. If a drug test proves to be positive and it suggests that the drug was taken during the school's operating hours the Headmaster will follow the guidance as written above and a period of suspension and possibly expulsion can be expected. However, if a drug test indicates that drugs were taken during a holiday period and not during term time the Headmaster will insist that the pupil will then be given guidance and support within the school and will be required to receive external professional counselling. Any expenses incurred by external health and counselling provision will be paid for by parents/guardians. The pupil can expect to submit to further tests at the request of the Headmaster. Any further positive test result can lead to the pupil's immediate expulsion.

**Document History**

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