



**Drug Abuse Prevention and Intervention  
Policy  
2026-27**

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| <b>Drafting Date:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025 |                                  | Date of First Review: 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2025<br>Date of Second Review: 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2025<br>Date of Third Review: 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026<br><br><b>Date of Next Review: April 2027</b> |
| <b>Authorized Signatories:</b>                   |                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Principal</b>                                 | <b>Vice Principal</b>            | <b>Head of Inclusion (DSL)</b>                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Counselor &amp; Wellbeing coordinator</b>     | <b>Head of Kindergarten</b>      | <b>Head of Primary</b>                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Manager School Operations</b>                 | <b>Health and Safety Officer</b> | <b>School Nurse</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## 1. Purpose & Scope

Dhruv Global School (DGS) is committed to ensuring a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment for all students, staff, and parents. In line with DGS's core values of respect, responsibility, integrity, and wellbeing, and adhering to the **UAE Federal Law by Decree No. 30 of 2021 on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (as amended)**, this policy aims to prevent, educate, and respond effectively to substance misuse. The policy aligns with the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) **Inspection Framework (DSIB Element 2.1: Health and Safety, and Wellbeing Framework)** and the UAE Ministry of Education's guidelines on drug abuse prevention.

**Scope Extension:** This policy applies to all students, teaching and administrative staff, contracted personnel, parents, visitors, and third-party service providers across all school premises, transport buses, official digital platforms, and off-campus school-sponsored activities or educational field trips at all times.

## 2. Definitions

**Substance Misuse / Abuse:** The unauthorized manufacture, possession, consumption, sale, solicitation, offer, or distribution of illegal drugs, narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, misused prescription medications, tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems (vaping devices/e-cigarettes), alcohol, or volatile inhalants on school premises or during any school activities.

**Stakeholders:** Includes students, parents/legal guardians, school leaders, teaching staff, support staff, school nurses/clinic personnel, **the school counsellor/safeguarding team**, and relevant external legal/health agencies.

**Medical Amnesty (Article 89 Provision):** Under UAE Federal Decree-Law No. 30 of 2021 (Article 89), any individual or parent who voluntarily surrenders or reports a substance

user/addict to designated medical/treatment facilities or authorities prior to criminal discovery is exempt from criminal prosecution. The school actively upholds this principle to encourage voluntary help-seeking.

**DSIB Wellbeing & Safeguarding Framework:** The evaluation framework applied by the Dubai School Inspection Bureau (DSIB / KHDA) to evaluate how effectively the school ensures child protection, health, safety, care, and emotional wellbeing.

### 3. Guiding Principles & Values

- Prevention First – Prioritizing awareness, proactive education, and early intervention.
- Whole-School Approach – Involving students, parents, staff, **health personnel**, and community agencies.
- Respect & Confidentiality – Safeguarding individual dignity while strictly maintaining student privacy, **subject to mandatory legal reporting requirements for child protection**.
- **Legal & Regulatory Compliance** – Strict adherence to UAE Federal Law No. 30 of 2021, **Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 (Wadeema's Child Rights Law)**, and KHDA DSIB inspection criteria.
- Parental Partnership – Engaging families transparently in prevention, intervention, and ongoing support.
- Continuous Improvement – Regular review and alignment with updated KHDA guidelines and national health frameworks.
- **Non-Stigmatization & Rehabilitation Focus** – Treating substance dependency primarily as a medical and psychological wellbeing condition requiring medical support and reintegration rather than sole punitive discipline.

### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

**School Leadership & Safeguarding Lead:** Ensure strict policy implementation, staff training, policy reviews, and manage regulatory reporting to KHDA and relevant authorities.

**Designate a dedicated Safeguarding / Child Protection Lead responsible for handling delicate disclosure cases.**

**School Counsellor & School Clinic / Nurse:** Conduct preventive awareness sessions, provide confidential initial emotional/psychological support, identify at-risk students through screening, maintain secure health records, **and coordinate immediate medical triage in alignment with Dubai Health Authority (DHA) clinic protocols.**

**Teachers & Staff:** Recognize warning signs (behavioral, physical, emotional), report concerns immediately to the Safeguarding Lead/Counsellor, **and complete annual mandatory child protection and substance awareness professional development training.**

**Students:** Comply with school code of conduct, participate actively in awareness programs, refrain from bringing/using prohibited substances, and seek help or report concerns confidentially.

**Parents & Guardians:** Attend mandatory school awareness workshops, monitor their child's wellbeing and peer groups, notify the school of prescription medication needs, and partner constructively with the school if intervention is required.

**External Agencies & Healthcare Partners:** Establish formal referral links with accredited medical/rehabilitation centers (e.g., Erada Center for Treatment and Rehab) and cooperate with Ministry of Interior / Dubai Police community awareness divisions.

## 5. Awareness, Education & Prevention

DGS will conduct regular, age-appropriate awareness sessions for students, parents, and staff. Programs include classroom lessons, interactive workshops, assemblies, and campaigns such as the annual Substance Awareness Week. Guest speakers from Dubai Police (Hemaya International Center), health authorities, and KHDA will enhance community awareness.

**Integration of Student Self-Help Guide:** The school officially embeds the 'Let's Talk About Addiction: A Guide Just for You' handbook into middle and high school advisory modules. This curriculum directly addresses:

- **Substance Literacy:** Educating students on the severe brain and health impacts of drugs, vaping/e-cigarettes, tobacco, and misused prescription drugs (noting adolescent brain development up to age 25).
- **Refusal Skills & Peer Pressure:** Practical scenarios teaching students how to assertively say 'No' ('Not my thing', 'I promised myself to stay healthy', walking away).
- **Debunking Myths vs. Facts:** Correcting misconceptions such as 'vaping is safe', 'trying once won't hurt', or 'everyone does it'.
- **Recognizing Warning Signs:** Training peers and staff to spot mood swings, academic drops, secrecy, sleeping trouble, or changes in friend groups.

## 6. Identification, Referral & Support

Early identification is conducted through teacher observations, student self-referrals, or parent communication. The counsellor meets with the concerned student confidentially, assesses behavioral/psychological risk, and formulates an individual support plan. **If specialized intervention is needed, the school facilitates external referral to accredited medical or rehabilitation facilities (e.g., Erada Center) while keeping parents fully informed.**

**Confidentiality & Safeguarding Boundary:** All student disclosures are handled with strict privacy. However, under UAE Wadeema's Law and KHDA Safeguarding protocols, if a student is in immediate physical danger, experiencing acute harm, or involved in

commercial drug distribution, confidentiality must be breached to notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead, parents, and relevant legal/health authorities.

## 7. Disciplinary Measures vs. Rehabilitation Framework

DGS maintains a strict stance prohibiting the possession, consumption, or distribution of illegal substances, nicotine/vapes, or alcohol on campus or during school events. To balance compliance with UAE Law and DSIB Wellbeing Standards, responses are divided into clear disciplinary and rehabilitative pathways:

- **Pathway A – Student Misuse / Addiction (Rehabilitative & Protective):** In alignment with Article 89 of UAE Federal Decree-Law No. 30 of 2021, students who are found to be struggling with drug misuse or addiction will be treated primarily through a healthcare and therapeutic model. DGS will prioritize counseling, medical referral, external treatment partnerships, and academic support rather than immediate punitive expulsion.
- **Pathway B – Intentional Distribution / Supply / Trafficking (Strict Legal Protocol):** Any student or staff member caught distributing, selling, soliciting, or supplying illicit substances on school grounds will face immediate severe administrative action, including suspension/expulsion in coordination with KHDA, and mandatory reporting to UAE law enforcement authorities.
- **Pathway C – Vaping & Tobacco Infractions:** Confiscation of devices, mandatory parent consultation, completion of mandatory substance education modules, and internal restorative sanctions.

## 8. Curriculum & Environment Support

Drug education is integrated across the Science, Physical & Health Education, and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum. **School displays, student assemblies, newsletters, and digital communications** reinforce healthy lifestyle choices. **DGS maintains a strictly smoke-free, vape-free, and substance-free campus environment** enforced across all school facilities 24/7.

## 9. Monitoring, Incident Logging & Policy Review

The counsellor, clinic nurse, and school leadership maintain **confidential, encrypted digital logs** of all awareness activities, screenings, and student interventions. An annual report summarizing policy effectiveness, incident trends, stakeholder feedback, and strategic recommendations will be presented to the Board of Governors. The policy will be reviewed annually or immediately upon new regulatory updates from KHDA, DHA, or UAE federal authorities.

## 10. Legal & Regulatory Alignment

This policy strictly complies with and operates under the authority of:

- • **UAE Federal Law by Decree No. 30 of 2021** on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (specifically Article 89 regarding voluntary treatment & prosecution exemption).
- • **UAE Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 concerning Child Rights ('Wadeema's Law')**.
- • KHDA Dubai School Inspection Bureau (DSIB) Framework – **Element 2.1 (Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Child Protection)**.
- • KHDA Wellbeing Framework for Schools in Dubai.
- • UAE Ministry of Education 2025 Drug Prevention Compliance Guide.
- • Dubai Health Authority (DHA) School Health Policy & Clinic Guidelines on Controlled Medications.