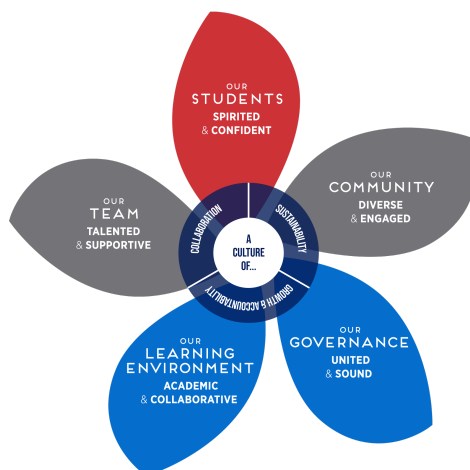


# FIS ANTI-DRUGS POLICY



This policy is in line with the strategic vision and mission of the French International School (FIS) and adheres to the guidelines established by the Hong Kong Narcotic Division for schools. It is a vital complement to the "FIS Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy."



**"All students deserve to be happy and well"**



**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish effective strategies for students to prevent drug use, assist students in making healthy choices, and respond appropriately to any drug-related incidents that may occur on FIS campuses and during any school-organised or supervised activity.

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**French International School "Victor Segalen" Association Limited**

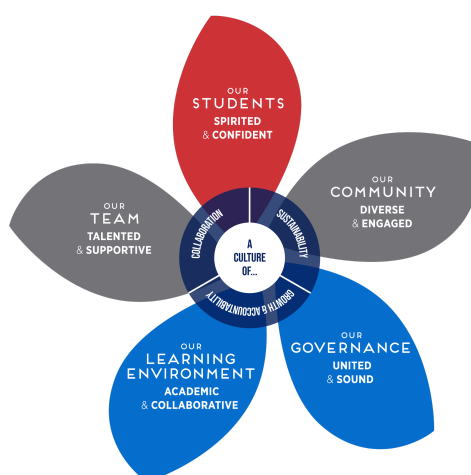
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## 1. Introduction

The Anti-Drugs Policy at FIS aims to create a safe and healthy educational environment for all students. Understanding the significance of well-being, this policy aligns with our school's strategic vision and mission while demonstrating our commitment to protecting students from the dangers of drug use. Through proactive strategies, support systems, and a responsive approach to drug-related incidents, we strive to empower students to make informed choices and cultivate a culture of health and happiness within our community.

The school's drug policy is available on the parents' portal. Parents and guardians are expected to support and reinforce the policy at home.

By choosing to attend FIS, students and parents expressly agree to fully abide by this policy and to cooperate with all its provisions and with all applications of the policy by FIS. In addition, students and parents agree to the following within the scope of this policy:

- to fully cooperate with any investigation, search, and/or test;
- to consent and submit to searches of a student's belongings;
- to consent and submit to testing when required by FIS; and
- to abide by any disciplinary sanctions imposed.

In all matters under or relating to this policy, the Head of School's decision is final.

## 2. Definitions and scope of policy

In this policy, the term "Drugs" refers to any substance that is illegal under Hong Kong law (such as controlled substances or dangerous drugs), or any other substance primarily used to alter a person's consciousness, mood, or behavior.

Any substance that does not fall within the definition of Drugs, but mimics or is intended to mimic the effects of Drugs, all drug-related paraphernalia (e.g., pipes, bongs, needles), any prescription medications not being used in accordance with a valid prescription, alcohol, tobacco products and vaping products, are also prohibited, and are referred to in this policy as "Other Banned Items".

Common examples of Drugs and Other Banned items include, but are not limited to: cannabis in any form including CBD or THC containing products, heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, ketamine, methamphetamine, space oil, cigarettes, vaping products, wine, liquor, beer.

FIS strictly prohibits on its campuses and during any school-organised or supervised activity or event, the possession, use, or supply of Drugs and Other Banned Items.

This policy's aim is to maintain a safe, healthy, and focused learning environment free from the negative impacts of substance abuse and misuse. Any action involving a substance or item that, while not explicitly defined herein, contravenes the spirit and intent of this policy's commitment to student well-being and a drug-free school environment is strictly prohibited.

**Prescription and Over-the-Counter Medications:** Students requiring prescription medications during school hours or school activities must provide written authorization from a parent/guardian as outlined in Appendix 1, along with the medical prescription, and give the medication to the health assistants or designated staff member for safekeeping. The medication will be securely stored and administered according to the prescribed dosage and instructions. Students are not allowed to carry or self-administer prescription or over-the-counter medications unless authorized in writing by a healthcare professional and approved by the school administration.

### **3. Education, Awareness**

The school will implement age-appropriate anti-drug education programs to educate students about the risks and consequences associated with use of Drugs and Other Banned Items.

Students, parents, and staff members will periodically receive information about the school's anti-drugs policy, including its purpose, the consequences of policy violations, and available resources for drug-related issues, especially regarding new trends and regulations as advised by the EDB.

### **4. Searches and testing**

To ensure a safe and Drug-free environment, the FIS reserves the right to search lockers, personal belongings, and school property if there is reasonable suspicion that a student may possess Drugs or Other Banned Items.

What constitutes reasonable suspicion? This includes, but is not limited to:

- Behaviors or actions exhibited by the student.
- Association with individuals known to be involved in drug-related activities, such as manufacturing, cultivating, distributing, possessing, or using Drugs or Other Banned Items.
- Participation in a commercial transaction involving Drugs or Other Banned Items.
- Prior observation or monitoring for involvement with Drugs or Other Banned Items.
- Credible information indicating the student's possible connection to Drugs or Other Banned Items.

### **Search Conduct Guidelines:**

The Vice Principal, acting on behalf of the Principal, of the respective campus and section, will supervise the searches in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Education Bureau (EDB), Appendix 2.

While students are deemed to agree to cooperate with searches, and the school will try to ensure practical cooperation of a student before searching belongings and/or lockers, searches of belongings/lockers may proceed even without the student's cooperation in accordance with EDB guidelines.

Searches will be carried out with a minimum of two FIS staff present, including a staff member as a witness, to ensure transparency and protect the student's rights. Whenever feasible, searches will occur in a designated private area.

**Testing :** In cases where a student is suspected or confirmed to have used Drugs or Other Banned Items, FIS may require the student undergo one or more tests for the suspected Drugs or Other Banned Items through a test provider of FIS's choice such as a laboratory, hospital or clinic. Parents/Guardians must cooperate fully, and ensure their child cooperates fully, with FIS and the chosen test provider if a test is requested, including doing all things necessary to ensure the test is carried out, and arranging for the test results to be released to FIS. The cost of testing will be borne by the parents.

## 5. Reporting and monitoring

All members of the school community are highly encouraged to report any suspected Drug-related activities or activities involving Other Banned Items to the FIS health department and/or the Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSL) who are identified in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Suspected or proven behavior involving the use of Drugs or Other Banned Items will be subject to a risk assessment by the FIS health department, inspired by the warning signs grid recommended by the Hong Kong Narcotic Division School Guidance, as outlined in Appendix 3.

The results of the risk assessment will be forwarded to the principal of the relevant campus and section by the head of the health department.

To ensure effective monitoring and centralization of information, all reports and assessments will be recorded in CPOMS (Child Protection Online Management System).

## 6. Framework for Addressing Drug-Related Issues in Schools

The FIS is committed to supporting students facing drug-related issues. We offer counseling services for those identified as needing support or who actively seek assistance. Our committed support teams collaborate with students to develop effective coping strategies and build resilience against the pressures they face.

However, violations of the school's anti-drugs policy will lead to disciplinary actions up to and including suspension, expulsion, referral to law enforcement, or other necessary interventions as determined by the Head of School.

The Head of School will oversee cases involving anti-drugs policy violations and decide, at their discretion, on appropriate disciplinary measures for both confirmed and suspected violations.

Once a decision is reached, the principal of the relevant stream and section will be informed by the Head of School, and will communicate the outcome to both the parents and the students.

## 7. Review and Updates

This anti-drugs policy will periodically be reviewed and updated to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with local laws.

Any changes to the policy will be communicated to students, parents, and staff members in a timely manner, and changes will be considered to take effect upon communication of the updated policy to the community.

## 8. Appendices

**Appendix 1 :** [Administration of Medicine During School: Parent Authorization and Disclaimer Form](#)

**Appendix 2:** [EDB: General Principles for Searching Students and Their Belongings at School](#)

**Appendix 3 :** [Students risk behaviors - FIS Warning signs grid](#)