



EUROPEAN SCHOOL FRANKFURT AM MAIN • Praunheimer Weg 126 • D-60439 Frankfurt



Anti-Substance Abuse Policy

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1 Introduction

At ESF, we are committed to providing a high-quality, contemporary education in a safe, healthy, and intellectually as well as socially stimulating environment.

Our approach is integrative, placing student well-being and safety at the core of all practices and initiatives. We aim to help young people explore and adopt positive values, norms, skills, and habits.

The school's substance abuse policy supports this mission by safeguarding students from the negative effects of drugs on their health, development, and surroundings. We provide guidance, support, and opportunities to ensure that substance use does not compromise their growth or well-being.

We view education and prevention as a shared responsibility between the school and parents.

This policy covers the following areas:

- Education and prevention
- Environmental conditions
- Clear rules and procedures
- Professional training for teachers and staff
- Information sessions for parents

The policy applies to all staff, students, parents, and partner agencies working with ESF. It is reviewed every three years in collaboration with all stakeholders, including our medical services (nurses and school doctor) and school psychologist.

2 Education and Prevention

We believe that drug education is most effective when embedded within a broader program of personal, social, and health education, supported by subject areas such as ethics and biology. This program should be age-appropriate, starting in primary school and continuing throughout secondary school. Guest speakers, workshops, and training sessions are selected with care to address the specific needs of our school community. The program includes the following:

- Raise awareness on substance abuse and drugs
- Understand the impact of the media in relation to substance misuse and the stereotypes it reinforces
- Raise awareness on the influence of peers regarding drugs
- Raise awareness on the various types of legal and illegal substances and their effects
- Make informed choices
- Get to know German & European law concerning legal & illegal substances
- Stimulate self-value and assertiveness
- ABC of first aid to someone under the influence of a substance
- Manage stress
- Identify risky behavior
- Get to know local and national support organizations

As indicated in our introduction, prevention and education is a shared responsibility between the school and the parents. We stimulate a safe and open environment for staff, students and parents to share their concerns.

3 Environmental conditions

We aim to create a healthy and safe environment for all our students. To do so, we work on two areas: infrastructure and school climate.

3.1 Infrastructure

Our goal is to provide an environment that actively promotes and supports healthy choices among students. To achieve this, we ensure that the school grounds and facilities are maintained to a high standard. This includes a clean and safe playground, daily cleaning of most school areas, and the provision of healthy, balanced meals and salads. In addition, students have access to a range of sports activities and appropriate equipment to encourage physical well-being. All school areas are supervised by staff and/or teachers to ensure a safe and supportive atmosphere at all times.

3.2 Positive school climate

A positive school climate supports students' development by strengthening their self-image, identity, and motivation, while also reducing issues such as aggression, exclusion, and absenteeism. It further contributes to the prevention of substance abuse.

We actively involve students in initiatives and committees to empower them in shaping a constructive school environment. Examples of student-led projects include enhancing playgrounds and study rooms, maintaining an active Pupils' Committee, leading anti-bullying workshops, organizing sports activities during breaks, hosting talent shows, assisting with school clean-up efforts, and welcoming new students.

Parents contribute through the Parents' Association, while the Eurokids network provides a wide range of after-school activities in sports and the arts.

All staff members are committed to building positive and supportive relationships with students. They serve as role models, fostering values, norms, and expectations that promote social, emotional, and physical safety. Staff are approachable and responsive, including when students have questions or concerns related to substance use.

4 Rules and Procedures

General Rule (Additional rules can be applied to school trips, extra activities, etc)

Bringing, possession, withholding (notably for another) (mis)use, abuse, dealing, sharing and/or being under the influence of vaping, alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, snus, CBD, energy drinks, misused medicines, and all illegal substances is forbidden on school premises and in the immediate vicinity of the school.

Incitement to use of drugs (verbal, written, via dress code and/or via imagery) can automatically trigger a meeting with the concerned student and the parents.

If the general rule is violated or if there is a suspected violation of this general rule all members of the school community are obliged to react immediately.

Our first concern is the health and safety of the person and those around him/her. Medical help will be sought, and first aid given if the pupil is unconscious, is having trouble breathing,

is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of harm.

If there is a suspicion of use, possession of an unauthorized substance and/or associated paraphernalia described in the general rule, the person is asked in presence of minimum one educational staff member and one security officer, to empty their bags, locker, pockets or jackets. If the person refuses, the parents will be asked for permission. If parents & student refuse, the police can be informed and asked to perform a scanning.

If a substance and/or drug-related item are found, it is confiscated.

The sample is sealed in a plastic bag (details of time and place included).

The sample is stored in a secure location with limited access.

If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will hand over the sample to the police.

Possession or keeping track of illegal substances automatically triggers a disciplinary council.

Talking with a pupil or an adult about a drug-related incident is intended to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than to conduct a wider investigation.

Parent(s)/guardians will be informed and other professionals (nurses, police, social services, school psychologists) may be consulted as appropriate.

The school ensures that sensitive information is only disclosed internally and/or externally with careful attention to pupils' rights and needs. A disciplinary issue remains in the students file for 3 years.

All drug-related incidents are also reported to our Director, Deputy Director and Assistant to the Deputy Director of the Secondary. The latest is responsible for coordinating the school's response towards the drug-related incident. All incidents will be dealt with after an assessment of the situation has been made. The response is always twofold: disciplinary measures and guidance measures. A director can decide on legal proceedings for endangering the welfare of students and/or staff.

5 Response to incidences: Disciplinary measures & Guidance

Possible disciplinary measures are stated in the school regulations. We respond appropriately to each individual case by selecting from a range of possible sanctions. Possession and/or dealing of illegal substances always triggers a disciplinary council.

Drugs is (mostly) a symptom of other problems. We ensure a caring response to the pupils in distress through our internal experts and teachers. Class teachers, school psychologists, educational advisers, nurses and counsellors are at your disposal.

We are ready to involve or refer pupils to youth and family support services, outpatient drug programs and clinics. Even if a pupil needs a long-term drug program, we as a school take our responsibility to provide education (if advisable by medical staff).

6 Helplines

Information concerning (il)legal substance and support services in our area:

JJ e.V. · Haus der Beratung -	Counselling and help
JJ e.V. · Jugendberatung und Suchthilfe Am Merianplatz in Frankfurt · Startseite	Youth Centre for counselling, early intervention and help with substances

7 Professional in-service training for teachers and staff

Every member of the school staff has the responsibility to be vigilant and react appropriately to drug-related incidents. We train our school staff on a regular basis. We offer teachers and staff members a training regarding the basics in drug education. Some receive a more intensive training than others (ex. educational advisors, counsellors, etc.).