

CAPULUM COLLEGE
Drug Policy



Capulum College
Nurturing Minds

DRUG TESTING POLICY

1. Drug Testing Policy

In accordance with section 8A of the South African Schools Act of 1996 ("the Schools Act"), the Principal or his or her delegate may administer a urine or other non-invasive test to any learner, or group of learners, that is on fair and reasonable grounds suspected of using illegal drugs. To the extent possible, the consent of the parent or guardian and the consent of the learner will be obtained. In this regard, the consents will be provided by the parent or guardian or learner concerned, on the prescribed forms. However, Capulum College reserves the right, as contemplated in section 8A of the Schools Act, to test for illegal drugs without such consent.

School children are vulnerable and are not exempt from being targeted as potential drug users by drug syndicates. Although it is impossible to control the supply of drugs, we are committed to helping the students in our school to make informed decisions in order to resist the temptation of drug-taking. Drug usage severely hinders a person's opportunity to learn, as all drugs damage the cognitive capability of the user.

The aim is not punitive, but rather to help any pupil who indulges in drug-taking, before it affects his/her life permanently. In addition, drug testing can pick up early drug use or experimentation, before problems and addiction start. It is a known fact that the chances of a successful recovery from a drug problem are improved at this stage. It is the desire of the staff of Capulum College to develop an atmosphere of trust between the staff and the pupils and to create a social ethos where drug-taking is unacceptable. We acknowledge the parent's responsibility to instil values into his/her child. The school does have a duty to do everything reasonably possible to assist our pupils to uphold the law, since drug usage is a criminal offence. The school has the constitutional right to create its own boundaries within its established ethos. This policy will be supported by factual alcohol and drug information made available to both pupils and staff.

11.1 Testing

11.1.1 On occasions where it is considered, as a result of unusual behaviour, low work ethic or other recognizable signs, that it would be in the best interests of the pupil to be tested, this will be carried out by the school, using an approved test.

If this test is positive, the pupil's parents will be notified and they will be requested to take the pupil to SANCA or a general practitioner for confirmation. This second test will be done to identify, confirm or eliminate the possibility of drug use, and must take place on the same day or the school test will be considered the final result.

If there is suspicion that a pupil is in possession of any illegal substance, or is in possession of anything in contravention of the school rules, they will be subject to:

- A body search by a suitable (same sex) member of staff
- A search of their possessions

11.1.2 Random testing for drugs will take place during school in the following manner:

- The test used will be an approved one-step, multi-drug screen test that tests for multiple drugs, including marijuana, using the urine of the person.
- Pupils will be randomly selected where there is reasonable suspicion.
- The test will be carried out by two same-sex staff members, one of which will act as a witness. The procedure will take place privately with the individual pupil.

- The test will be labelled with the name of the pupil by the witness.
- The results will be given to the pupil immediately, once available.
- Should the school test be positive, the following will apply:
 - The pupil will be shown the test result.
 - The parents will be called by the Principal, who will request that a test be conducted by SANCA or a medical practitioner on the same day.
 - The current school policy will then be followed with the pupil and the parents.

11.2 Procedures to be adopted

- If any pupil is specifically identified for testing due to abnormal behaviour, the school may immediately do a urine test, following the procedures outlined above. Parents will be contacted to inform them of the testing.
- Pupils must sign a form presented to them by the Principal, stating that they had been tested for drugs and what the outcome of the test was.
- In the case of a pupil testing positive, the parents will be required to arrange counselling for their child. Advice in this regard will be offered by the school. SANCA counselling will be recommended as the first measure. The pupil is automatically required to submit to re-testing three weeks later and thereafter every month for four months.
- Records of all results will be kept by the principal, who will not make any public disclosure of findings.
- If the pupil tests positive on the second or subsequent test, he/she may be expelled from the school after a disciplinary hearing.
- A final warning is issued for any drug related incidents.
- Any pupil found dealing in drugs will face immediate expulsion.

It is imperative that the pupils see the drug testing as a constructive, positive measure, which has been implemented in order to help them say no to drugs and to help rehabilitate any pupil who is involved with drugs. Our intention is to provide the children entrusted into our care with a safe environment in which they can learn and develop optimally.