



POLICY ON

DRUG-FREE AND SMOKE-FREE SCHOOL

(Aligned with ADEK Compliance and UAE Regulations)

1. Policy Statement

Merryland International School is fully committed to providing a safe, healthy, inclusive, and drug-free learning environment, in compliance with the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) policies, UAE Federal Laws, and relevant child protection and student wellbeing regulations.

The school strictly prohibits the use, possession, distribution, promotion, or concealment of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, smoking devices, vaping products, or any prohibited substances on school premises, school transportation, and during all school-related activities.

2. Regulatory and Legal Compliance

This policy is implemented in accordance with, but not limited to:

- **ADEK Private Schools Policy and Guidance**
- **UAE Federal Law No. 14 of 1995** on combating narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (and amendments)
- **UAE Federal Law No. 3 of 2016** on child rights (Wadeema's Law)
- **ADEK Student Behaviour Management and Wellbeing Framework**
- **UAE Public Health and Tobacco Control Regulations**
- **School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**

Compliance with this policy is **mandatory** for all stakeholders.

3. Purpose

- To ensure full regulatory compliance with ADEK expectations
- To protect students from exposure to substances that threaten health, safety, and wellbeing
- To establish clear, consistent, and transparent procedures for prevention and intervention
- To promote a culture of responsibility, early intervention, and safeguarding



4. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students enrolled at Merryland International School
- All school employees, contractors, volunteers, and visitors
- All school premises, school buses, off-site activities, trips, and events

5. Definitions (As per UAE and ADEK Guidelines)

- **Illegal Substances:** Any narcotic, psychotropic substance, alcohol, or solvent prohibited under UAE law
- **Smoking Products:** Cigarettes, vapes, e-cigarettes, shisha, nicotine devices, or any tobacco-related products
- **Possession:** Physical possession or control of prohibited substances in bags, lockers, uniforms, or personal items

6. Preventive and Compliance Measures

6.1 Student Education and Awareness

- Delivery of age-appropriate drug awareness and prevention programmes in line with ADEK wellbeing standards
- Integration of substance abuse education within Moral Education, and school curricula
- Regular assemblies and workshops promoting healthy lifestyle choices

6.2 Campus and Transport Safety Controls

- Clear signage identifying the campus as a Drug-Free and Smoke-Free Zone
- Supervision of students during school hours, breaks, and transport
- Random checks conducted lawfully, respectfully, and proportionately, with due regard to student dignity and safeguarding

6.3 Staff Training and Responsibilities

- Mandatory staff training on student safeguarding, substance awareness, and reporting procedures



- Immediate escalation of concerns to the Child Protection/ Safeguarding Lead and School Leadership
- Maintenance of confidentiality and compliance with data protection requirements

6.4 Parent and Guardian Responsibilities

- Parents must declare any prescribed medication required during school hours
- Active cooperation with the school during investigations and interventions
- Support school-led corrective and safeguarding measures

7. Prohibited Conduct

Students are strictly prohibited from:

- Using, possessing, selling, sharing, or distributing prohibited substances
- Bringing smoking or vaping devices to school or school-related activities
- Encouraging, coercing, or influencing others to engage in substance use
- Misusing prescription medication

8. ADEK-Compliant Procedures for Managing Drug-Related Student Cases

8.1 Identification and Immediate Safeguarding

- Any suspected substance-related concern will be treated as a safeguarding issue
- The student will be supervised in a safe environment
- Immediate medical attention will be provided by the School Nurse, if required

8.2 Search and Confiscation (Compliance-Driven)

- Searches will be conducted only by authorised senior staff
- A witness will be present at all times
- All confiscated items will be logged, secured, and handled in accordance with UAE legal requirements

8.3 Documentation and Incident Reporting

- A detailed incident report will be completed and stored securely
- Records will be maintained in line with ADEK inspection and audit expectations



8.4 Parent Notification and Engagement

- Parents/guardians will be informed without delay
- A formal meeting will be arranged to discuss findings, actions, and support measures

8.5 Investigation and Decision-Making

- A structured investigation will be conducted by the School Leadership Team
- Decisions will be fair, proportionate, and evidence-based
- Student voice will be heard while ensuring safeguarding

9. Disciplinary Measures (Aligned with ADEK Behaviour Framework)

Depending on the severity and recurrence, actions may include:

- Formal warning (verbal or written)
- Behavioural or corrective action plan
- Mandatory counselling or wellbeing intervention
- Temporary suspension
- Referral to external support services
- Expulsion in serious or repeated breaches, in accordance with ADEK regulations

10. Referral to Authorities

- Any case involving illegal substances, trafficking, or serious risk will be reported to relevant UAE authorities, as required by law
- The school will fully cooperate with ADEK and law enforcement agencies

11. Student Support, Welfare, and Rehabilitation

- The school prioritises student welfare and early intervention
- Counselling and pastoral support will be provided
- Individual Support Plans may be implemented in collaboration with parents and specialists

12. Confidentiality and Data Protection

- All information will be handled in compliance with UAE data protection laws
- Access to records will be restricted to authorised personnel only



13. Monitoring, Review, and ADEK Inspection Readiness

- This policy will be reviewed annually or as directed by ADEK
- Compliance will be monitored through:
 - Staff training records
 - Incident logs
 - Student wellbeing data
- The policy will be made available for ADEK inspection and audits

14. Policy Approval

This policy is approved by the School Management and is binding on all members of the school community.

Effective Date: 15 August 2025

Next Review Date: 15 August 2026

Approved by: School Principal



