

Dec 2018

Debriefing to the Board on substance abuse policy

A letter to the parents was sent on September 2018. A few answers were received with compliments and suggestions for future actions.

A consequence letter was sent to Mr Sharron on 24th September 2018 with concrete propositions. These propositions were followed in a meeting with Mrs Andries on December 3rd:

1. Reviewing the text of the “substance abuse policy” of the school. *Make it clear and visible.*
The school substance abuse policy is supposed to have a major review in 2019. However, we urge you to take into consideration that recognizing “that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential to harm”, is not in the best interest of a well-structured policy against drug abuse. Drugs with beneficial effects are called medicines. Let’s change the language used to have impact on the negative effects of the use of drugs not to encourage students to consume.

Accordingly to Mr Sharron’s answer, Mrs Andries will call for a first meeting to draft a new document. It is agreed that this WG in charge will be composed by:

Mrs Andries,
APEEE (MC+SG)
Psychologist
Nurse
CDE
Teacher’s representative

Calendar of the works:

1st meeting before Christmas break
2nd meeting January
3rd meeting March
April CEES meeting: final version for approval

2. Sanction practice: *what are exactly the school rules and sanction practice as regards of drugs and alcohol at school? How many students were sanctioned, temporarily or definitely expelled from school due to alcohol or drug consumption in the last 3 years?*

All sanction practices are based at the “school Regulations (XIV, Prevention Policy, C): “All possession, use or selling of tobacco, drugs, alcohol or medication is strictly forbidden. The pupil is not allowed to be under the influence of one of these products. Should there arise strong suspicion that a pupil is under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol, the school will expect authorization from the parents to have the pupil undergo a test in the school medical center. Refusal to give school authorization may lead to the immediate exclusion of the pupil. It should be noted that a positive medical test for prohibited substances will simply start a procedure of support for the pupil in strict confidence and in close collaboration with the pupil’s legal representatives, a procedure that complies with the school’s substance abuse policy.”

Accordingly to Mrs Andries, during the last 3 years, only 5 students have been temporarily sanctioned for drug related issues. None of them have been expelled.

There has been transfers from other European School for disciplinary reasons but the educational advisors are not informed of that reasons. She explained that the European School System with SMS lacks tools to keep track of such data across European schools and staff turn over does not help this process either.

3. Training for teachers and school staff. A teacher must be able to recognize a student under the influence of toxic substance or alcohol and know how to act. The "Substance abuse policy" states that a training course should be organized every 3 years. Who gives this training? If the teacher is under the impression that a student is under the effect of alcohol or drugs, what is exactly the procedure to follow? (send to the nursery? call the parents?)

According to Mrs Andries, the next training will be organized during the current school year.

When a teacher suspects that a student is under the effect of alcohol or drugs he/she must call Mrs Andries who will accompany the student to the Infirmary and call the parents.

4. and 5. Early start (education to health issues should start in Primary) and use of Integrated Sciences, Ethics or other subjects programs to work with students on drugs and other abuse issues. All that refers to syllabi and curriculum and should be dealt at the level of BOInspectors.
6. Presence of "surveillants" in the corridors: Mrs Andries explain that the main problem is the toilets and that it is very difficult to have someone to be there during all the school time. During morning main break and lunch break the corridors surveillance is done by the teachers
7. Conference: besides APEEE intention of organizing a conference with the participation of the all school community, we informed Mrs Andries about the comments we received from the parents after we sent the September letter, namely the possibility of showing some biographic drugs-related movies to the students with the possibility of an open debate. Mrs Andries will study the idea to do it at the last weeks of the school year and even the possibility of bringing to school a theatre company who works this kind of thematic called "Flash Theatre".

MC and SG