Guide to Drugs Prevention in the School Environment

(in accordance with ADEK Standards)

1. Introduction

The German International School Abu Dhabi (GISAD) is committed to creating and maintaining a safe, healthy, and drug-free learning environment. This guide is based on the ADEK Student Protection Policy, the Student Behavior Policy, and the current requirements for the ADEK Compliance Visit 2025.

It applies to all members of the school community: students, parents, teachers, administrative staff, school social workers, external specialists, and school leadership.

2. Principles

- Zero-tolerance policy toward illegal drugs, psychotropic substances, and the misuse of stimulants.
- Full compliance with all relevant UAE drug-control laws.
- Promotion of an environment centered on well-being, prevention, and protection.
- Strong collaboration between school, families, school social workers, and community partners.

3. Prevention & Awareness Promotion

3.1 Age-Appropriate Awareness Programs

GISAD implements comprehensive preventive measures to educate students early and minimize risks:

- Regular awareness activities for all grade levels (KG–Grade 12).
- Key topics: mechanisms of addiction, risk factors, stress management, digital risks, peer pressure, mental health.
- Engagement of external experts (e.g., health authorities, police, psychologists).

3.2 Parent Awareness

- Annual information sessions on drug prevention and the legal framework in the UAE.

- Provision of guidance materials in German and English.
- Information on early warning signs and available support services.

4. Role of School Social Work & Prevention Groups

4.1 School Social Workers

GISAD employs two school social workers responsible for:

- Delivering preventive workshops.
- Providing confidential counseling to students.
- Coordinating interventions in suspected cases.
- Documenting cases in accordance with ADEK protection standards.

4.2 Prevention Group (PRAG)

PRAG supports:

- Planning and implementation of school-wide campaigns.
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles and resilience.
- Collaboration with class teams and parent representatives.

5. Behavioral Guidelines & School Environment

GISAD ensures:

- A drug-free campus (including school buses, events, and excursions).
- Visible communication of rules across campus.
- Regular campus inspections and safety checks.
- Immediate reporting of suspicious substances to school leadership and school social workers.

6. Procedures in Suspected Cases

All measures follow ADEK's Student Protection & Safeguarding requirements.

6.1 Early Detection

Teachers, school social workers, and administrative staff receive training to identify warning signs such as:

- Behavioral changes
- Decline in academic performance
- Social withdrawal
- Physical indicators

6.2 Reporting Procedure

- Any observation must be immediately reported to the designated school social worker and the school leadership.
- Documentation is completed confidentially according to ADEK standards.

6.3 Intervention

Depending on the case, and involving the school leadership:

- Meeting with the student
- Parent involvement
- Provision of psychological and educational support
- In cases involving illegal substances: mandatory reporting in line with UAE law

All measures must remain educational, proportionate, and protective.

7. Support & Rehabilitation Measures

GISAD ensures that students receive support rather than face stigmatization:

- Counseling services
- Adjustments to academic requirements if necessary
- Referral to external therapeutic or medical facilities
- Ongoing support by the school social workers

8. Staff Training

All staff – including volunteers and external specialists – must:

- Complete ADEK-mandated Student Protection & Safeguarding Training.

- Sign a declaration acknowledging their understanding of relevant policies.
- Participate in annual refresher training.

Training content includes:

- Early detection
- Handling suspected cases
- Legal requirements
- Student protection measures

9. Communication & Publication

The school ensures:

- Publication of this guide on the school website.
- Distribution to all staff, parents, and students.
- Written acknowledgment of receipt from all groups.
- Integration into the Parent–School Agreement.

10. Monitoring & Quality Assurance

- Annual review of all measures in line with ADEK standards.
- Internal audits by school leadership, school social work, and PRAG.
- Adaptation to current developments, trends, and legal requirements.

11. Responsibilities of the School Community

All members of GISAD are required to:

- Actively support a drug-free environment.
- Report suspicions responsibly.
- Contribute to preventive measures.

12. Conclusion

GISAD views drug prevention as a collective responsibility of the entire school community. Through education, early detection, clear procedures, and consistent safeguarding, the school creates an environment that strengthens the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of all students—in full alignment with the highest ADEK standards.