

Drug and weapons policy International School Almere 2023

Education is essential for the development of young people. Apart from the fact that the absence of education is prohibited by law, it often appears to be a pretext of problems or a reaction to underlying issues. It has been found that, among other things, drug use by young people makes them skip school faster, get lower grades, repeat the school year or show more negative behaviour. In order to prevent and/or reduce these problems prematurely, collaboration is established between Tactus Verslavingszorg and Secondary Schools in Almere.

Consequences when a student is found either in possession/use of:

1. Drugs / Alcohol
2. Weapons / perceived weapons

1. In the case of a student using alcohol or drugs, the following procedure will take effect:

- they will not be allowed in class. The student's parents are called with the request to pick up the student.
- the student is externally suspended for a minimum of 1 day.
- after that, a conversation will be held, focussed on rebuilding the trust. In addition, the student is obliged to have (minimal) one-time contact with a personnel involved in preventative measures from Tactus Verslavingszorg.

See figure 1 for a flow chart on the second page.

Procedure

When signalling drug use, a report is sent to the mentor / concierge / leadership team / care coordinator and the incident is reported in SOM and will be put in the student file. Thereafter, a number of steps will be taken:

1. The case will be introduced at the next CAT (Care Advisory Team) meeting. Tactus Verslavingszorg Care is hereby requested for their expertise. In order to enable a quick response, direct phone contact can also be made between the chairperson of the CAT and the CAT representative from Tactus Verslavingszorg.
2. It is determined whether the participant is suspended / removed from the International School Almere. This is done by the Head of School in consultation with relevant parties.
3. Optionally, Tactus Verslavingszorg is enabled to join the conversation with the student. Ellen Vos is the person of contact for the International School Almere (M 06 12740832 E e.vos@tactus.nl).
4. Parents of the student under the age of 18 are informed. For students between 16 and 18 years, this can be done in consultation with the student. At the International School Almere we strive to include parents and the student actively in these processes.
5. Feedback is given to the mentor / leadership team / care coordinator.

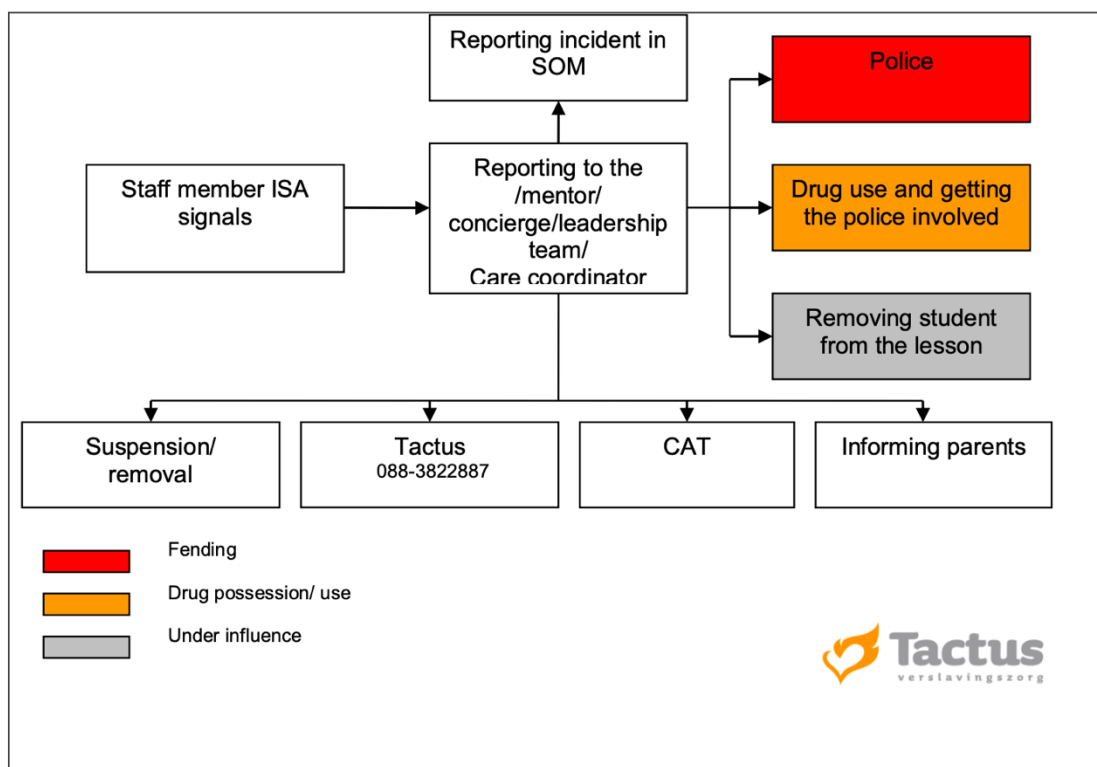
Role of prevention

In addition to taking measures when there is either use or possession of drugs, it is important to take preventive action: preventing incidents and preventing use. Tactus Verslavingszorg workshops are organized for teachers to enhance their knowledge about stimulants. Students can use digital lesson modules on smoking and alcohol and the risks and effects of use. There is also the possibility of

organizing a parent evening. Finally, the Prevention Department from Tactus Verslavingszorg is available on demand at the CAT consultation, and Tactus employees can attend school at all times. For these activities, contact the Department of Prevention of Tactus Verslavingszorg on 036-5373983 or through your contact at Tactus Verslavingszorg; Ellen Vos (M 06 12740832 / E e.vos@tactus.nl).

Figure 1.

Flowchart procedures for signalling or suspicion of selling, drug possession or use and under influence



2. In the case of a student bringing a weapon or an item that can be perceived as a weapon onto the school premises, the following procedure will take effect:

- the item in question will be confiscated immediately.
- depending on the type of weapon, the police might be informed immediately
- parents will be called with the request to pick up the student.
- The student is externally suspended for a minimum of 1 day.
- After that, a conversation will be held, focused on rebuilding the trust.

Below, a clarification is provided to explain what can be understood under the term 'weapon':

1. A “weapon” means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; air guns; pellet guns; BB guns; fake (facsimile) weapons; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; numchucks; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.
2. Any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons including, but not limited to, weapons listed above which are broken or nonfunctional, look-alike guns; toy guns; and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.
3. Articles designed for other purposes (i.e., lasers or laser pointers, belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.), to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.