



FAQs on the Guide to Drugs Prevention at School Environment and A Parent's Guide to Drugs Prevention.

1. Policies and Procedures

Q1: Do schools need to prepare a separate written drug prevention policy?

A: No. Schools only need to assign the relevant staff to carry out the required responsibilities and ensure that procedures are implemented and documented as per the Drug Prevention Guide.

Q2: Will the Ministry provide a unified policy framework?

A: No. Schools should rely solely on the procedures outlined in the Drug Prevention Guide.

2. Awareness and education

Q3: What is the minimum requirement for awareness activities (sessions, campaigns, events) per year?

A: Each school can decide this based on their needs, however, activities must target all stakeholders - staff, students, and parents.

Q4: Are prevention programs part of the mandatory curriculum or extracurricular activities?

A: They are not part of the curriculum. However, schools must conduct them as **mandatory extracurricular activities** to ensure all students receive the awareness messages.



3. Training and Capacity Building

Q5: Who is responsible for training school staff on early detection and intervention?

A: The school, in coordination with the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) and the relevant authorities such as the Ministry of Interior – General Directorate of Drug Control – or any other competent authorized entity.

Q6: Is specialized training for school counsellors mandatory?

A: Yes. Schools must ensure social and psychological counsellors receive certified training in early detection and intervention.

Q7: How will the training be implemented?

A: Each educational provider is responsible for arranging training for its staff with the help of competent authorities.

Q8: Do counsellors need an additional license to report suspected cases?

A: No. However, they must document and follow up cases in line with the procedures mentioned in the Guide.

4. Reporting and Monitoring

Q9: What is the approved reporting mechanism for suspected or confirmed cases?

A: Schools must immediately document the case, notify school leadership, and directly refer the case to the competent authorities as per the Guide.

Q10: Is there a unified electronic reporting system?

A: No. Schools must keep their own records of detected and reported cases.



5. Roles and Responsibilities

Q11: What are the mandatory responsibilities of the school principal?

A: As outlined in the Guide, the principal is responsible for disseminating the Guide, raising awareness among students and parents, and coordinating training with relevant authorities.

Q12: What is the teachers' role?

A: Teachers are responsible for both raising **awareness** and **early detection** of potential cases, by observing behavioural and academic changes in students and reporting them.

Q13: Are schools responsible for reintegrating students after treatment?

A: Yes. Schools must support students both academically and socially, document follow-up, and create reintegration plans in collaboration with families.

6. Collaboration with parents

Q14: Are schools required to organise awareness workshops for parents?

A: Yes. At least one annual workshop is compulsory, with more as needed.

Q15: Must schools document communication with parents in suspected cases?

A: Yes. All communications (minutes, official letters, emails) must be documented and stored in the student's file.

7. Evaluation and Compliance

Q16: What indicators will be used to verify school compliance?

A: The following will be checked:

- Dissemination of the Guide
- Training provided to staff

- Awareness activities for students and parents
- Actions taken when cases are detected
- Ensuring the school is free from drugs and smoking

Q17: Will these indicators affect the school's overall inspection rating?

A: Yes. They are part of compliance standards and will directly impact the overall evaluation.

Q18: Would non-compliance with corrective actions attract penalties?

A: Yes. Schools will be required to take corrective measures within a specified timeframe. Penalties and fines may apply if timely action is not taken.