

# Drug-free schools

**Zero tolerance policy  
on drugs in upper  
secondary schools,  
upper secondary  
schools for pupils  
with learning  
disabilities and adult  
education**



# **To pupils and guardians of pupils studying at upper secondary schools or upper secondary schools for pupils with learning disabilities.**

## **Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs in schools**

Schools are drug-free workplaces. In accordance with the Swedish Work Environment Act, school administrations must adopt any measures necessary to protect pupils and employees from health risks and accidents.

## **What will the school do if drug-related activity is suspected or proven?**

The principal will promptly call a meeting with the pupil. This will be done in consultation with staff from Pupil healthcare. The principal will ask the pupil's guardians to attend if the pupil is underage. If the pupil is of legal age, it is preferable for their family/person(s) responsible for their maintenance to attend the meeting if the pupil consents. An action plan that involves a clear allocation of responsibilities and documentation measures will be drafted during the meeting.

If the pupil has repeatedly caused disturbances, behaved inappropriately, or is guilty of a serious offence, the principal must investigate the matter. Once the investigation has concluded, the principal may issue the pupil with a warning. If the pupil's drug use causes them to behave in a manner that satisfies

Sweden's Education Act's criteria concerning suspension, the principal may choose to suspend the pupil.

## **Can the school force a pupil to take a drug test?**

The school principal can ask the pupil to take a voluntary drug test. In such cases, the pupil will sign a consent form prior to taking the test. Voluntary drug tests may also be used after information has been provided to a student and a written agreement drafted in cases where certain Learning in a Work Environment or Workplace-based Learning programmes (LIA/APL) require it.

## **Will the school always report drug-related activities to Social Welfare Services?**

If drug-related activities involving a pupil who is a minor are suspected, the school will always report this to Social Welfare Services. Similarly, in the case of a pupil who is of legal age, such suspicions ought to be reported to the Social Welfare Services office in the municipality in which the pupil is registered. Among other things, such reports are intended to help the pupil and their family to receive support in handling the situation in the best possible way.

## **What will the school do if a pupil arrives under the influence of drugs?**

- » If the pupil is a minor, the school will contact their guardians. If the pupil is of legal age and with their consent, the school will contact the person(s) responsible for the pupil's maintenance/family.
- » The police will be called in if needed.
- » The school will file a report with Social Welfare Services if the pupil concerned is a minor. A report ought also to be filed when the pupil concerned is of legal age.
- » The principal will promptly call a meeting and draft an action plan.

## **What will the school do if it suspects a pupil of selling drugs?**

- » The principal will be contacted.
- » The principal will file a report with the police.

## **Whom at your school can you speak to about support and advice concerning drug and alcohol problems?**

Contact the teacher responsible for you, the principal, or the pupil healthcare service.

## **Your school co-operates with Mini-Maria Göteborg**

Mini-Maria Göteborg is made up of two local outpatient clinics for youths

up to 21 years of age who have questions or concerns regarding alcohol, narcotics or other drugs. Mini-Maria Göteborg provides information, counselling and treatment for both the individual youth and their immediate family and close relatives. Mini-Maria's staff consists of social workers, nurses, psychologists and physicians.

Mini-Maria is a joint initiative run by the City of Gothenburg and Region Västra Götaland.

More information is available online at: [www.minimaria.se](http://www.minimaria.se)

## **The Education Administration's drug-prevention efforts are based on a number of Swedish laws:**

- » Education Act (2010:800), Chpt. 5
- » Ordinance on Adult Education (2011:1108), Chpt. 7
- » Higher Vocational Education Act (2009:128)
- » Ordinance on Higher Vocational Education (2009:130)
- » Social Services Act (2025:400), Chpt. 19
- » Work Environment Act (1977:1160), Chpt. 3, Section 2
- » Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400), Chpt. 25
- » General Clause – Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400), Chpt. 10, Section 27

# To staff employed at upper secondary schools and upper secondary schools for pupils with learning disabilities

## Guidelines for joint efforts concerning pupils who have alcohol and/or other drug problems.

The school must have in place a systematic and organised drug-prevention initiative. The school will cooperate with Mini-Maria and Social Welfare Services to provide the most effective help possible for pupils with substance abuse problems.

Action	Executioner/Responsible
The pupil and their guardians will be promptly called to a meeting in accordance with Sweden's Education Act, <i>Chpt. 5, Section 9</i> . Pupils who are of legal age will be asked to bring the person(s) responsible for their maintenance with them to the meeting.	Principal
At the meeting, the pupil will be confronted about the school's suspicions and informed that a report will be filed with Social Welfare Services (if the pupil is a minor). A report ought also to be filed in cases where the pupil is of legal age.	Principal
The pupil and their guardians will receive information about Mini-Maria and will be offered an appointment.	Principal or Pupil Healthcare
An action plan will be drafted. The establishment of consent to exchange information among the parties involved (school, Social Welfare Services, Mini-Maria) is advantageous.	Principal or Pupil Healthcare
A report for submission to Social Welfare Services is drafted using the designated form. Information about the time arranged to hold a planning meeting is to be included on the form.	Principal or Pupil Healthcare
Voluntary drug test, if prescribed. A consent form must be signed by the pupil. For pupils who are underage, their guardians' signatures are also required.	Principal
Mini-Maria will be contacted to arrange a time to hold a planning meeting.	Principal or Pupil Healthcare

**Purpose**

Early detection, rapid intervention and effective routines among upper secondary schools, upper secondary schools for pupils with learning disabilities, Mini-Maria and Social Welfare Services in the municipality where the pupil is registered in connection with pupils with substance-abuse problems.

**Objectives**

To have pupils overcome their substance-abuse problems and to jointly create conditions that will enable them to complete their upper-secondary education.

Action	Executioner/Responsible
Mini-Maria offers a time to hold a planning meeting within 14 days. The pupil and their parents are informed about this appointment.	Principal or Pupil Healthcare Mini-Maria
Social Welfare Services receives the report and contacts the school.	Social Welfare Services
Planning meeting with the pupil and their guardians/persons responsible for their maintenance.Continued documentation as part of the action plan.	Mini-Maria Principal Pupil Healthcar
The pupil receives treatment. If the counselling and treatment provided to a pupil are deemed to be insufficient help, a report will be filed with the relevant Social Welfare Services office.	Mini-Maria
Update provided to relevant staff members at the school.	Mini-Maria
Update provided to Social Welfare Services, if such has been agreed on.	Mini-Maria
Follow-up meeting in accordance with the action plan attended by the pupil and their guardians/persons responsible for their maintenance.	Mini-Maria Principal Pupil Healthcar

# To students studying municipal adult education programmes or higher vocational education programmes

Schools are drug-free workplaces. All staff must be knowledgeable about drugs. A student who is undertaking Workplace-based Learning or a Learning in a Work Environment work placement (APL/LIA) must obey workplace rules. For this reason, APL/LIA students may be asked to take drug tests if the workplace requires this.

## **What will the school do if drug-related activity is suspected or proven?**

The principal will promptly call a meeting with the student, relevant teacher/course coordinator and the student counsellor. An action plan that involves a clear allocation of responsibilities and documentation measures will be drafted during the meeting.

## **Municipal adult education**

If the student's drug use causes them to behave in a manner that satisfies Sweden's Education Act's criteria concerning suspension, the principal may choose to suspend the pupil after conducting an investigation.

## **Higher vocational education**

If a student abuses alcohol or narcotics and there is a risk that they might injure another person or valuable property during their training, the student may be suspended from the programme until further notice.

## **Actions when a student is under the influence of drugs**

- » Any student who is severely influenced by drugs must be removed from the school/workplace.
- » The police will be called in if needed.
- » The principal will promptly call a meeting with the student, relevant teacher/course coordinator and the student counsellor.

## **Actions in the event of suspected drug dealing**

- » The principal will be contacted.
- » The principal will file a report with the police.

