



## **(Further) GUIDELINES ON DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

St Julian's is committed to caring for the health and safety of its students and, if necessary, will take action to safeguard their well-being. We recognise that all young people are at risk from drugs and make every effort to deter drug taking. The school's formal curriculum includes programmes designed to warn students of the dangers associated with drug abuse and substance abuse.

Our teachers are vigilant, and are aware of the possibilities of abuse. Part of their role is to warn students of the dangers to their physical and mental health if they become involved in the abuse of controlled drugs and substances. Tutors also explain what sanctions apply if the rules are disobeyed.

### **DEFINITIONS**

Drugs means controlled drugs including cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, cocaine, LSD, and heroin

Substances mean solvents, aerosols, mushrooms and other substances whose misuse is liable to damage the health, safety and welfare of a student.

The following are the guidelines, which inform the school's procedure if there is reason to believe that a student is involved in the abuse of controlled drugs or the abuse of substances.

#### **1. Evidence of Misuse**

Any student who, while at school or in the vicinity of the school, or in the care of the school, is found to use or possess with the intent to use, drugs or substances must expect to be excluded permanently. As described in paragraph 4, a positive drug test may also lead to permanent exclusion.

Any student who is discovered dealing with controlled drugs, or being in possession of them with intent to deal, or providing others with controlled drugs at school that student will be excluded permanently from the school.

#### **2. Suspicion of Misuse**

- 2.1 If a member of staff has reason to suspect that a student is misusing drugs in or out of school, he/she must report the situation through the Tutor to

the Head of Year, Director of Pastoral , Secondary School Principal, or Headmaster who will decide if further investigation is warranted.

- 2.2 Students will be asked to undergo a urine test where there is reasonable suspicion of drug abuse. For example:
- i) Behaviour changes
  - ii) Suspected involvement in a drug related incident
  - iii) Physical signs
  - iv) Academic performance is significantly below expectation.
- 2.3 There will be no random testing, except as outlined in Support Following a Positive Test Result, paragraph 4 below.
- 2.4 Parents will normally be notified in advance of the test, but, as timing is of critical importance, this may not always be possible. Every effort will, however, be made to contact parents in advance of the test.

### **3. Testing Procedures for Drugs**

- 3.1 Testing procedures will be in accordance with standard good practice.
- 3.2 If the test proves negative, no further sanction will be implemented.
- 3.3 If a student refuses to give his consent, he will be warned that the school may proceed as if there had been a positive test.

### **4. Support Following a Positive Test Result**

If the only firm evidence that a student has been taking controlled drugs and/or substances is a positive urine test, he may be allowed to remain at school; in which case he will be given appropriate guidance/counselling and support. The student will also be under obligation to undergo random tests at any time during the rest of his career at the school. Any further positive test is likely to lead to his permanent exclusion.

### **5. Change in the Procedure**

It may be necessary to change the testing procedure from time to time. Any changes shall be authorised only by the Headmaster and shall come into force on the date designated by him (which may be immediate). The amended procedure will be sent to parents as soon as is practicable.

### **6. Results of the Test**

Results of the test will normally be sent (by post) to the Headmaster, Secondary School Principal, and Director of Pastoral within three working

days. The results will then be communicated to the student, his parents and Head of Year as soon as possible after this. Should further tests then be required only those people will know this fact.

## **7. Confidentiality**

- 7.1 Records of the testing will not be used for any other purpose and will be destroyed when the student concerned leaves the school.
- 7.2 The school reserves the right to inform the police of possession, consumption or supplying of an illegal drug, where it is deemed appropriate.

## **8. Charging for the Test**

The school will cover the cost of a first test required if it is negative; otherwise the fee must be borne by the parents.