



## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

### **PURPOSE:**

- *support the whole school approach to reducing drug/substance use and associated harm*
- *explain how schools respond to drug/substance related incidents*
- *provide support for students involved in unsanctioned drug/substance use.*

### **SCHOOLS MUST:**

- *provide all students with substance/drug education prevention and intervention programs*
- *involve parents/guardians and the wider school community in drug-related curriculum and wellbeing issues*
- *prohibit possession, use, distribution and selling of illicit drugs and unsanctioned licit drugs on school premises or at any function or activity organized by the school*
- *develop or review policy to support the management of drug-related incidents*
- *make every effort to retain students in the education system because students are often at greater risk if disengaged from school.*

### **HARM MINIMIZATION:**

- *refers to policies and programs designed to reduce drug-related harm.*
- *aims to improve health, social and economic outcomes for both the community and the individual and encompasses a wide range of approaches.*
- *Schools use a harm minimization approach to review and implement school drug education programs and activities that:*
  - *are comprehensive and evidence based*
  - *promote a positive school climate and relationships*
  - *are targeted to needs and contexts identified through consultation with students, staff and parents*
- *embed timely, developmentally appropriate drug education programs within a curriculum framework that utilize effective pedagogy.*

## AIMS OF HARM MINIMIZATION

AIM	DESCRIPTION
<i>Prevent and reduce drug related harm</i>	<p><i>Includes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>prevention through education and creating respectful and safe schools</i></li> <li>• <i>early intervention to prevent later harmful drug use.</i></li> </ul>
<i>Drug related incident response</i>	<p><i>Includes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>ensuring the response is well managed</i></li> <li>• <i>student wellbeing is paramount</i></li> <li>• <i>utilizing partnerships with parents/caregivers and police (when necessary)</i></li> <li>• <i>ensuring the response does not cause any secondary harm, such as social stigmatization, reduced self-worth and associated truancy.</i></li> </ul>

### *Responding to drug related incidents*

TIMING	RESPONSE
<b>Immediate response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>focus on the safety and welfare of those directly and indirectly involved</i></li> <li>• <i>stay calm</i></li> <li>• <i>gather any:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>facts</i></li> <li>• <i>relevant information</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>make a first aid assessment (if necessary, seek medical support)</i></li> <li>• <i>seek assistance as soon as possible</i></li> <li>• <i>safely collect any suspected drugs and drug paraphernalia</i></li> <li>• <i>inform the school administration</i></li> <li>• <i>Isolate the situation from other students, if possible.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Subsequent response when it is safe</b>	<p><i>Follow up to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>inform parents/guardians of students involved in incident</i></li> <li>• <i>notify health, community and welfare services, if appropriate</i></li> </ul>

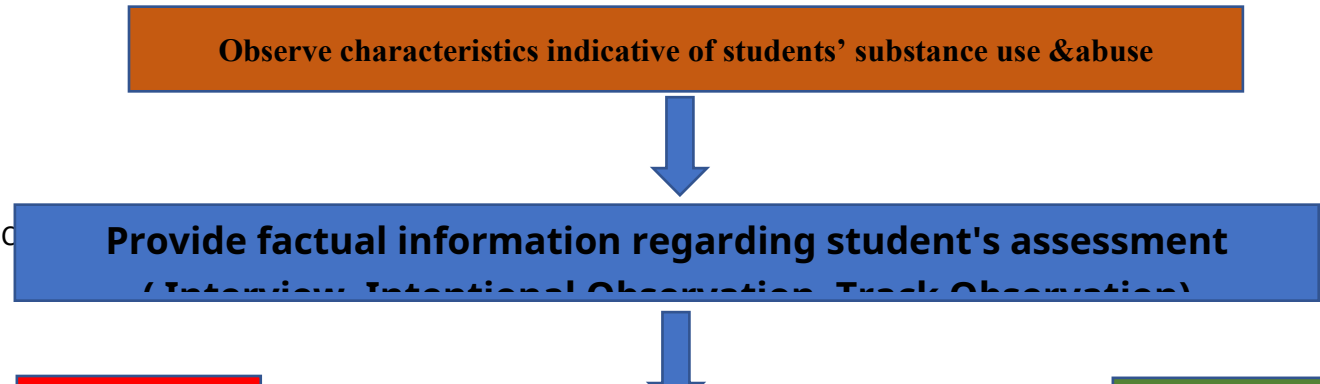
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>contact the police, if required</i></li> <li>• <i>establish a case management team to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>gather and verify information</i></li> <li>• <i>allocate tasks and roles</i></li> <li>• <i>document information</i></li> <li>• <i>develop a communication strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>consider interventions</i></li> <li>• <i>consider sanctions in line with student engagement policies</i></li> <li>• <i>monitor, evaluate and reflect.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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### PRINCIPLES RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF ILLICIT DRUG USE

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
<b>Confidentiality: detoxification and pharmacotherapy treatment</b>	<p><i>Information about detoxification, methadone or alternate pharmacotherapies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>is a private matter</i></li> <li>• <i>only needs to be shared between students and their:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>parent/guardian</i></li> <li>• <i>supporting community agency</i></li> <li>• <i>school designated student wellbeing staff.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>may be provided, at the principal's discretion, only:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>with the student's consent</i></li> <li>• <i>to staff who have direct responsibility for the student.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Example: If the student's concentration or alertness may be affected by prescribed medication.</i>  <i>Important: Students should not be excluded from attendance based on their ongoing detoxification.</i></p>
<b>Drug testing</b>	<p><i>The department does not support any form of drug testing in schools for teachers or students to avoid:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>raising a lack of trust between schools and students</i></li> <li>• <i>legal, technical, ethical and financial issues.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Duty of care</b>	<p><i>Teachers have a duty of care to pass on information to the principal if they have knowledge about illicit drug use by students or members of a student's family irrespective of whether the use:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>is confirmed, suspected or likely to occur</i></li> <li>• <i>occurs on or outside school grounds</i></li> <li>• <i>the drug used.</i></li> </ul>

	<i>Note: Under this duty of care staff cannot promise unconditional confidentiality to students.</i>
<b>Educational access during absence</b>	<p><i>Any student who is absent from school due to drug use or the resultant treatment should be provided with a Student Absence Learning Plan as determined by teachers in consultation with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>parents/guardians</i></li> <li><i>the school's appointed case manager</i></li> </ul>
<b>Parents</b>	<p><i>Principals should notify parents/guardians as soon as practicable.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Teachers and principals do not breach criminal law by failure to notify parents/guardians of the use of an illicit drug, but there are civil implications.</i></p>
<b>Police</b>	<p><i>Principals must:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>advise the local police contact person (station commander or sub-officer nominee) when they have knowledge of an alleged criminal offence, including the possession, use and distribution of illicit drugs</i></li> <li><i>document internal procedures and actions undertaken.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Professional development</b>	<p><i>Staff should be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>informed of policies and procedures</i></li> <li><i>provided with professional development in responding to drug related incidents.</i></li> </ul>

Protocol for Student Substance Use & Abuse



**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

<b>COMPLIANCE</b>	
<i>Compliant with</i>	<i>Local legislation</i>

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<b>AUDIENCE</b>	
<b><i>Internal</i></b>	<i>All staff in Dasman Bilingual School</i>

<b>VERSION CONTROL</b>	
<b><i>Author</i></b>	<i>Counselors</i>
<b><i>Implementation</i></b>	<i>Annually-August to June</i>
<b><i>Review date</i></b>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> June Annually</i>