

# DOWNSIDE --- SCHOOL

## NARCOTICS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

### **Policy**

This document sets out the policy of Downside School in respect of any person, either student or employee, who is found or suspected to be using, supplying, producing, storing or possessing illicit drugs. This document will be amended from time to time. It reflects the School's policy and its most recent conclusions about the dangers and effects of drug abuse, not only in the school environment but in society at large.

### **Aims**

The School aims to provide a secure environment for both its pupils and its staff, free to the fullest extent possible from the incidents of mental or physical harm which result from drug abuse. With this in mind, the provisions of this policy are as follows:

- to make every person in the School aware that to use, possess, consume, store, sell or distribute illicit drugs within the School renders the person concerned liable to disciplinary action which may result in removal or dismissal.
- to make every person also aware that to be within the premises under the influence of illicit drugs renders the person concerned liable to the same disciplinary action as above.
- to make every person aware that academic performance, health - both mental and physical - and safety may be impaired by the abuse of drugs
- to make every person aware that anyone who abuses drugs is potentially a cause of harm not only to themselves but to others.
- to encourage any person who realises the existence of a problem with drugs, either in him/herself or in someone else, to speak in confidence with a view to remedial action being taken.

### **School Regulations**

A pupil will be subject to disciplinary procedures and will be liable for expulsion if he/she:

- is found to be in possession of illicit substances or is consuming, storing, selling, or distributing illicit substances within the School, in its vicinity or in the company or presence of other students of the School;
- arrives in the School at any time under the influence of illicit substances;
- is found to be intoxicated within the School or in the opinion of the staff is having his/her performance or awareness impaired by the consumption or ingestion of any substance;
- refuses to consent to a test or in any way tries to obstruct the procedure for taking a test or attempts to pervert the result of a test for illicit substances;
- refuses to cooperate with any questioning, search or other enquiry into the use or presence of illicit substances within the School.

The Head Master, the Deputy Head Master, the Director of Pastoral Care, the House Masters / Mistresses, the Bursar and/or any member of the staff delegated by any of the above are regarded by the School as having the right to search the room, possessions, luggage or person of any pupil suspected of any activity detailed above, and to demand an immediate drug test in the presence of a member of the medical staff of the School, without prior notice to a parent or guardian.

If any person possesses, stores, uses, supplies or produces illicit substances on the premises then the School is required by law to inform the police. This applies also to any *medication obtainable on prescription but has not been prescribed for the person using it*.

### **The Responsibilities of Parents**

It is the responsibility of parents whose children are at the school:

- to keep their child as informed as possible about the consequences of substance abuse, and to leave him/her in no doubt that they do not condone or excuse the lifestyle of drug-taking.
- as far as possible to discourage their child from associating with people known to be using illegal substances and from attending places or functions where drugs are known to be used.
- to keep careful watch on the amount of money that their child has available, and not to allow him/her excessive amounts which will carry the temptation to buy drugs.
- to avoid putting their child in any position where they are tempted to use illegal drugs.
- to be continually vigilant about the physical and mental well-being of their child, and to notice any changes in his/her physical appearance or behaviour which may have drug-taking or substance abuse as its cause.

### **The Responsibilities of the School**

- to keep every pupil as informed as possible about the dangers of substance abuse, and to be explicit in the disapproval of the lifestyle of drug taking.
- to communicate with parents any anxiety which may be felt about the physical or mental well-being of their child.
- to be continually vigilant about the appearance and behaviour of members of the School, and to make immediate investigations if there is any indication of substance abuse.
- to make investigations in the event of any rumours or hearsay that a person is involved in drug taking.
- in the event of any pupil being suspected of drug-taking, to issue him/her with a formal warning about its dangers and consequences, to notify to parents the fact that the warning has been given, and, at the discretion of the Head Master or Deputy Head Master, to demand a drugs test by urinary sample without prior notice being given.
- to carry out random testing, by urinary sample, of any member of the School, and to inform parents about the event and outcome of such a test.
- to treat any member of the School suspected of this offence with as much consideration and courtesy as possible.
- before any test takes place, to obtain the consent of the person from whom the test is being demanded.

### **Responsibilities of Pupils**

- to keep themselves informed about the dangers and consequences of using illicit drugs.
- not to use illicit drugs.

- to bring to the notice of the Head Master, Deputy Head Master, the Director of Pastoral Care or a House Master / Mistress any concerns which they have about the activities of any fellow member of the School, with a view to the situation being remedied.
- to urge any fellow member of the School who is involved in illicit substances to seek help.
- not to conceal or collude with any activity which involves the distribution, possession or use of illegal substances.

### **Drug Testing Procedure**

- a urine, breath, swab or wipe test may be demanded of any member of the School at any time by the Head Master or Deputy Head Master.
- the test will take place in the location, the manner and the circumstances decided by the Head Master or Deputy Head Master.
- a member of the medical staff, either Doctor or qualified nurse, will be present at the time of the test.
- the School will undertake to provide the result of the test within a week.
- during the time that elapses between the test and the result, the student may be suspended from the School at the discretion of the Head Master or Deputy Head Master.

### **Action to be taken in the event of a positive drug test or admission of use**

The parents will be consulted and will be expected to meet the Head Master or Deputy Head Master. The pupil will be suspended pending a report from a qualified drug counsellor. Should the report be favourable, the pupil may be allowed back to school under a regime of regular drug testing at the expense of the parent. A further positive test is likely to result in permanent exclusion.

Policy reviewed August 2011 and confirmed as the current Policy

**Dom Leo Maidlow Davis**