Appendix M – Drug Education & Support Policy

People in our society use drugs for both medical and recreational reasons. The King David School has a responsibility to provide its students with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about drug use or non-use.

The King David School aims to address the drug education needs of our community through a harm minimisation approach.

What Is A Drug?
A drug is any substance which alters the function of your body if you take it internally (not including food and water). Examples include alcohol, cigarettes, cannabis/pot, speed and ecstasy.

What Is Harm Minimisation?
We know that many young people will use drugs at some stage of their lives and we therefore believe that students must acquire knowledge and skills to help them make informed decisions about drug use and so minimise any harmful effects associated with that use.

Education
The major objective of The King David School is education. The school's curriculum will address many issues related to drug use, as students move through each year level. The following issues will be addressed:

- Focus on keeping the body healthy by being aware of all substances that affect body functioning.
- Facts about drugs which give accurate information and focus on benefits as well as risks.
- Personal drug use in which risk-taking is examined in a non-judgemental manner. Through this method young people will acquire the knowledge to make informed decisions about drug use and be able to minimise any harmful effects associated with it.
- Attitudes in which stereotypes and myths are challenged.
- Harm minimisation (i.e. the approach that through education potential harm can be minimised).
- The law and drugs. This is an examination of the law, its rules, legal rights and coping with conflicts which may arise. Staff, students and parents/guardians have a responsibility to discourage the use of all drugs which are detrimental to health and well being.
- Giving and receiving help. This form of education focuses on skills to help oneself and to help others.
- Parent/Guardian Workshops. These are designed to educate parents/guardians and other adults. Appropriate prescribed drug use needs to be monitored with parental/guardian support.

Prescribed Medication
The King David School should be formally notified in writing about any prescribed medication to be taken on School premises. This medication will be monitored by a staff member or members. Clearly all members of The King David School community have a responsibility to discourage the use of all drugs which are detrimental to health and wellbeing.
**Intervention**

The intervention procedure is designed to address incidents of drug use in a way which is in the best interest of all parties while also conforming to legal requirements.

The King David School does not permit students while on School premises or at any school events to:

- Smoke tobacco.
- Consume or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages.
- Deliberately inhale solvents.
- Possess drug-related equipment such as syringes (unless prescribed for medical reasons and advised to The King David School staff), bongs or pipes.
- Possess, use, or be under the influence of illegal drugs.
- Be under the influence of drugs, except for medical reasons.

These provisions include all occasions when a student is travelling to and from school, or at any school camp, excursion, or other school organised function including school formal, social or sporting function.

The law relating to the sale or possession of illegal drugs is clear, with criminal penalties imposed where offenders are convicted.

Where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion of drug use, selling or possession, the Principal or appointed Head of School may, in the presence of the student/s and another teacher, search personal property. Any confirmed incidents must be reported to the Principal immediately. Any information provided or discovered will be treated confidentially until a thorough investigation has been completed, at which time it may be necessary to reveal such information to the appropriate authority.

**Cigarettes**

The King David School is a SMOKED-FREE school. Students found smoking, in possession of cigarettes, or supplying cigarettes to other students, anywhere in The King David School environment, will be liable to a range of sanctions, dependent on the circumstances and regardless of whether or not previous conduct has been recorded.

**Alcohol & Solvents**

Students will be liable to a range of sanctions dependent on the circumstances and regardless of whether previous conduct has been recorded, where:

- They are found drinking, in possession of, or supplying alcohol to other students in any school environment.
- They are found to be involved in solvent abuse. (The application of any solvent for use other than its primary purpose, particularly for the achievement of a state of altered awareness).

**Illegal Drugs**

The possession and/or supply of illegal drugs is an offence and is against the law. The King David School will view such conduct as a very serious matter.

1. Any student found supplying illegal drugs is committing an offence against the law. The police will
be notified. At the discretion of the Principal, the enrolment status of the student may be changed.

2. Any student found in possession of illegal drugs in any King David School environment will be removed from class, the parents/guardians will be notified in order to begin a consultation process and the police may also be informed.

In both 1 and 2 students will be liable to a range of sanctions dependent on the circumstances and regardless of whether previous conduct has been recorded.

**Breaches and Consequences**

Consequences refer to the range of actions that may be taken when any element of the Drug Policy has been infringed. When any element of the Drug Education & Support Policy has been breached the Principal must determine, within the constraints imposed by relevant legislation, what actions are to be taken. In making this decision the Principal must inter alia consider:

- Protection of students who have not breached policy.
- The health and emotional/psychological wellbeing of the offender.
- The standards expected by our school community.
- The reputation of the school as a whole within the community.

The consequences for breaches for the policy will depend upon the history of the offender, the nature of the offence and the danger posed to other students. Prior to making any final decision about consequences, consultation with parents and appropriate health professionals will have taken place. In making the decision the school’s legal responsibilities will need to be taken into account. In situations such as the provision of illicit drugs to other people, the School may be required by law to contact the police. Consequences for breaches of the policy will vary according to the severity of the offence; ranging from counselling, through to surrender of any office held, to suspension, probation (which may involve drug testing to be carried out at the discretion of the School) and expulsion.