



## **POLICY WITH REGARD TO ILLEGAL DRUGS AND TESTING**

### **Background**

There are severe laws against the possession, consumption and trafficking (which includes the selling, giving, administering, transporting, sending, delivering, distributing or offering to do any of the above) of illegal drugs and drug related articles (pipes, syringes and other apparatus) in Singapore. Despite that, drug dealers find all kinds of ways into the user market. Our teenagers, particularly, can find themselves facing more and more potential situations in which they may become vulnerable and may be placed under pressure from either their peers or others to try a drug.

### **Possession, consumption and/or trafficking of illegal drugs**

To adhere to the principles of the legal system of Singapore and to protect the School community, Tanglin's Code of Conduct for Students rates 'Possession, consumption and/or trafficking of illegal drugs and possession of drug-related articles in School or on school-related activities, on or off site' as a Level 4 breach - the most severe. The sanction that would normally be applied against this kind of behaviour is immediate permanent exclusion from school.

In a move to support our students who come under pressure to use drugs, the Personal, Social and Health, Education (PSHCE) and Life Skills programmes include education from a young age about the dangers of drug abuse. As a further measure of support, Tanglin has a policy of drug testing in the Senior School, so that students can say, 'No, I cannot. My school tests for drugs.'

### **Nature and form of drug testing**

#### **Procedure involved prior to testing:**

Before accepting the offer of a conditional place in the Senior School, parents are required to sign a consent form allowing the student to be tested for consumption of illegal drugs (which may include all controlled drugs and specified drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act). Students are required to sign an acknowledgement of their parents' consent.

The testing of students is overseen by the Head of Senior School and supported by the relevant Assistant Head Teacher responsible for Care, Guidance and Support. The process of testing is carried out termly on a cross-section of selected students from each Key Stage and is undertaken by the School's Nurses and Health Officers.

<b>Prepared By</b>	<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Reviewed &amp; Updated</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Next Review</b>
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**Selection for testing takes two forms:**

1. Random selection by computer programme in a process witnessed by an independent observer. The vast majority of students are selected in this manner.
2. Selection of students whose behaviour suggests they may be vulnerable or exposed to possible drug use or whose demeanour within school or academic profile has raised scrutiny or concern. An occasional student will be selected by this process.

The parents of selected students will receive confidential letters informing them (a) that their name has been drawn, (b) which Health Centre they should report to, and (c) the date of testing. Parents of such students are invited to be present at the testing. Parents of students who are selected because of pastoral concerns (as highlighted in '2' above) are invited to meet with the Head of Senior School, who will inform them of the concerns and the need for testing.

If any student who has been selected for testing refuses to comply with the testing procedure or either or both of the student's parents refuse to allow the student to be tested, the parties concerned will be invited to meet with the Head of Senior School. If after this meeting, the student and/or the student's parent or parents still refuse to allow the testing to take place, the parties will be informed that the student will be deemed to have taken the test and to have recorded a positive result. The student will then be treated in the same way as a student who has taken the test and whose result has proved positive.

**Procedure for testing:**

The form of testing is by obtaining a hair sample. A hair sample, about the width of a pencil lead, is cut from the head. The sample is double sealed and sent to a laboratory in the UK. If hair cannot be obtained from the head, then a sample is taken from elsewhere.

**Procedure following testing:**

The test results normally take two weeks to return. During the waiting period between the testing and the outcome of the result, the selected students are monitored and supported if necessary. Upon the return of the test results, the selected students and their parents are informed of the outcomes. If the result is negative, no further action is taken other than to note that there has been a testing which resulted in a negative outcome.

A positive test result will necessitate a meeting with the Head of School and associated staff. Appropriate disciplinary action and counselling will follow. Student behaviour which infringes on the laws of Singapore may be reported to the relevant authorities, and where reporting is mandatory under the laws of Singapore, the school will inform the relevant authorities.

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