

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY - Students

### PREAMBLE

Maria Montessori Academy believes that all students have a right to attend school in a safe environment conducive to learning. Alcohol and/or drug possession, supply, sale, or consumption is both illegal and interferes with effective learning and healthy development, Maria Montessori Academy is committed to preventing drug and/or alcohol use and maintaining a drug and/or alcohol -free environment during school hours and at any school function that takes place on or off campus.

### POLICY

Maria Montessori prohibits students from possessing, manufacturing, offering for sale, selling, distributing, consuming, or using drugs, tobacco, vapour products, alcohol, or wearing clothing related to alcohol, tobacco or drugs during school hours, whether on or off school property.

Students breaching this policy may be subject to discipline in accordance with the School's Code of Conduct and will be subject to the full range of consequences including immediate removal from their peers as well as meeting with a drug and alcohol counsellor and completing a substance abuse education assignment. Trafficking (selling drugs or alcohol) will result in an immediate expulsion from the school.

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

#### A. Definitions: for the purpose of this policy

1. **Drugs:** include but is not limited to any substance which affects a person's physical or mental capacity or functioning, which causes a marked change in consciousness, or which has a physiological effect when ingested or otherwise introduced into the body and includes both legal and illegal forms of such substances but does not include medications taken pursuant to a valid prescription, and in accordance with a physician's direction.
2. **Impaired or impairment:** a deterioration or diminishment of an individual's physiological ability, functioning, judgment or condition and includes but is not limited to being unable to function as that individual does under normal or usual conditions, or safely because of intoxication by any substance.
3. **School hours:** means the hours of the day when the School is open to students, whether or not classes are in session or any time a student is away from the school on a School organized trip, including but not limited to times when a student is not actively participating in activities or pursuits organized by the school but is otherwise away from their normal resident due to their involvement in the school organized trips ( for example Outdoor Education trips, fieldtrips, sports activities, work experience, etc.)

4. **School Property:** includes but is not limited to all real or personal property, facilities, land, buildings, parking lots, equipment and vehicles whether owned, leased or used by the school.
5. **Substance Use Disorder:** means a condition in which the recurrent use of alcohol, drugs, medication, or any other substance causes impairment of daily life, such as health problems, disability, and failure to meet responsibilities at work, school, or home, and includes the conditions classified as substance use disorders in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition as amended.

## **B. Medication**

When a student is required to use medication (including but not limited to medical cannabis) pursuant to a valid prescription and in accordance with a physician's directions at a time, whether on or off of school property, that could cause them to be impaired during school hours, the student and their parent(s) is required to adhere to the following:

- Notify the school principal, prior to the student using the medication and attending the school impaired, or using medication at the school, to permit a determination of whether the use of that medication can be accommodated,
- And the student and parent(s) must provide medical confirmation authorizing the student's use of the medication in order for the school to consider a request for accommodation. Any medical license or prescription relied on for the use of medical cannabis must be issued in accordance with the applicable statutory requirements.

**If the student uses medication in breach of this policy, without the student or their parents first disclosing the student's need to use such medication to the principal, the student will be subject to discipline as outline above.**

## **C. Addiction or Substance Use Disorder**

The Board understands that certain individuals may develop an addiction or substance use disorder related to their use or consumption of drugs or alcohol, and that this may be defined as a disability.

Where a student discloses an addiction or substance use disorder prior to breaching the Policy, the School will take reasonable steps to assist them in their recovery, No student who discloses an addiction or substance use disorder prior to breaching this policy will be disciplined because of the student's disclosure or their involvement in a rehabilitation effort.

If a student uses drugs or alcohol in breach of this policy without first disclosing their circumstances to the school administration, they will be subject to discipline.