

# **BOSMANSDAM HIGH SCHOOL - HIV/AIDS POLICY**

Learners and Close Family members could be infected or become infected. This will directly impact on the school:

- (a) Learners
- (b) Close family members

## **A. LEARNERS:**

### **1. Entrance to School:**

Prospective learners will not be refused admission to the school because of their HIV status, but will be subject to the same selection procedures as non-infected learners.

### **2. Reporting of HIV status:**

Parents or learners may wish to advise the Principal of the learner's HIV status so that suitable support can be given to the learner.

### **3. Confidentiality:**

The learner's HIV status is confidential and no staff member, learner, parent or member of the governing body may have access to this without the permission of the learner's legal guardian and of the infected learner. Any staff member found breaching a learner's confidence will evoke disciplinary procedures.

### **4. Status at School:**

- (a) Learners who become infected will not be asked to leave the school because of their HIV status, but may be asked to leave should they break other rules and regulations that apply to all learners.
- (b) Infected learners will be afforded the same privileges and be required to adhere to the same rules and regulations as the other learners.
- (c) HIV-positive learners will be required to attend classes and other school activities as laid down by the rules and regulations of the School and non-attendance due to illness will follow the same procedures.

- (d) The School will try by all means possible to ensure that no prejudice and/or victimisation takes place around the issue of HIV/AIDS. If, after all efforts have been made to avert this and prejudice and/or victimisation continue, the Principal will take disciplinary action against those concerned.
- (e) With regard to contact sport, any person with an open wound prior to, or sustained during, a game will be asked to leave the sports field and will be given First Aid.

5. **Testing:**

Learners wishing to undergo an AIDS test will be assisted by:

- (i) Ensuring the confidential nature of the request and subsequent results.
- (ii) Referral of the learner to an appropriate centre that will provide pre- and post-test counselling and will ensure the confidential nature of the results.

6. **Treatment of opportunistic infections:**

Learners and their caregivers will be encouraged to ensure that any learner who is suffering from AIDS seek proper treatment for any infections which are concomitant to infection with the AIDS virus.

This will be to contain infection that could affect other learners, for example Tuberculosis, skin infections or respiratory infections. Learners suffering from infectious diseases will be required to provide the school with assurance that he/she is receiving medical treatment.

B. **CLOSE RELATIVES:**

The school recognises the fact that the HIV status of learners, and/or their parents and/or other family members will have emotional and financial ramifications that will affect the pupils and staff. While the school recognises the confidential nature of the disease, the effects this disease will have on learners and their families cannot be ignored and the policy is developed with this in mind.

**Confidentiality:**

Should a family discover that a member other than the learner is HIV-positive, it is under no obligation to inform the school. If a family chooses to inform the school, this is confidential and no other person may be informed without the permission of whoever provided the initial information and of the interested person. The school will try to support and counsel any pupil whose family suffers from AIDS or HIV through its own counselling and services or by helping to facilitate outside counselling and support services. This information will be kept confidential between the staff member and the learner concerned.