

## **Safe Haven Policy (Non-Disciplinary Response)**

The priority of the College is to ensure good health and safety of all its members for the prosperity of our community. Recognising that mistakes can be made, the College offers a "Safe Haven" and encourages every student to seek help when a student's health and/or safety is at risk because of:

- an involvement with drugs and alcohol,
- an attempt to harm him/herself or another member of the community,
- any abusive situation and/or any situation that may be harmful to a member of the community.

Students are encouraged to seek help from the faculty and administration, counsellors, Wada Parents, Medical Staff and other adults in the community when any situation arises that may require immediate medical attention or involves the previously described situations.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of all our students. In general terms, Safe Haven confirms the following:

- Students in need of help may come forward without the risk of being placed on a formal disciplinary status. (Exceptional aggravating circumstances may result in a disciplinary response. Exceptional aggravating circumstances cannot be clearly defined since they are situation-specific. One example would be 'acts of violence.')
- A student requesting Safe Haven for another student will not be subject to a disciplinary response. (Exceptional aggravating circumstances may result in a disciplinary response. Exceptional aggravating circumstances cannot be clearly defined since they are situation-specific. One example would be 'provision of drugs.')
- College faculty and administration will not, to the extent possible, disclose the names of students who assist others in seeking Safe Haven to the community.

Note: In the rare case that there are exceptional aggravating circumstances in a situation, it is possible that the College would revisit the decision. An example of an "exceptional aggravating circumstance" would be if serious bodily harm was done to another student.

Safe Haven cannot be used as a means of avoidance or a shield for a student who seeks sanctuary after he or she knows or suspects that an adult is aware of unacceptable behaviour. Safe Haven does not apply to a student who distributes illegal substances or aids others in obtaining them. The College's treatment of a student who is distributing or aiding others in the acquisition of drugs/alcohol is outlined in this Student Handbook. It is expected that during any Safe Haven request a student will demonstrate honesty and fully disclose the extent of his/her involvement. The absence of full disclosure may result in a disciplinary response.

The following outlines, in general terms, actions that the College may take when a student seeks assistance under the Safe Haven Policy:

- seek an assessment by a trained counsellor/therapist,
- notify parents in an informational, and not a disciplinary context,
- seek an evaluation by a physician,

- create a plan, with the assistance of the aforementioned people, to help the student address his/her situation. Part of this plan may require drug testing and/or separation from the College for a certain period of time to seek professional help, i.e. medical leave

These considerations are not intended as punishment, but are designed to support the student as he/she is reintegrated into the college community. Possible areas of review may include student leadership positions. Each circumstance will require an individual plan, and other actions may be considered.

After a student has utilised the Safe Haven policy, he/she will most likely be required to participate in periodic drug and alcohol testing when appropriate and/or cooperate in the counselling process. If the student is unable to participate in these measures, then the benefits of Safe Haven may be terminated and his/her standing with respect to formal discipline may change.

Safe Haven is designed to help students seek and receive assistance for themselves or other students in times of crisis or potential crisis. If a pattern of behaviour is observed around Safe Haven, the student will be required to see a counsellor who can further help guide the student toward safer and more successful conducive behaviours. The goal is to encourage students to help themselves and to help others when health and safety may be in jeopardy.