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# Macleans College - POLICIES & DIRECTIVES

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SECTION NO: **1100**

POLICY NO: **1117**

ISSUE DATE: 21/02/03

TITLE: **SAFE SCHOOLS POLICY**

ISSUE NO: 1

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## HIV / AIDS

### RATIONALE:

Macleans College is as committed to a positive approach in dealing with the issues of HIV/AIDS as it is for any serious communicable disease.

### PURPOSE:

- To provide a supportive environment for, and prevent unfair treatment of persons affected by HIV or AIDS.
- To set out a commitment to HIV/AIDS, and other disease prevention through appropriate health education the school.

### GUIDELINES:

- It is recognised that people with HIV are often healthy, and are able to work and study.
- Staff or students at any stage of HIV infection do not pose a health risk to others in a school setting. Thus employment/enrolment at the school will not be affected by HIV status.
- There is no basis for needing to know others' HIV status. HIV testing is not required. Disclosure of HIV status (where known) is entirely voluntary; it is left up to the student/parents/staff member concerned. Confidentiality (where a case is known about) will be maintained at all times, according to the wishes of the person(s) concerned. Rumours of HIV/AIDS in the school will be neither confirmed nor denied.
- HIV is a blood-borne virus but far less infectious than Hepatitis B or C. Macleans College has in place a Hepatitis policy that deals with infection control and this is more than adequate to prevent HIV transmission in the school setting.

### Note:

Because of the probability of unknown infections the standard safety and hygiene procedures must be applied universally in the school.

- Education, including discussion and answering questions will be covered within the Health and HRD programmes.

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## **CONCLUSIONS:**

By proper and appropriate procedures those with infectious disease should be enabled to maintain full access to educational and employment opportunities, while the risk to others of infection is avoided by proper adherence to health, hygiene and safety procedures.