

HIV Aids Policy Document

Date: March 2023

INTRODUCTION

- Acknowledging the seriousness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa, but also accepting that there is a great deal that can be done to influence the course thereof, Cross-Over Remedial School is committed to minimising the social, economic, developmental and educational consequences of HIV/AIDS on the school, its learners and its staff. This policy seeks to contribute towards promoting effective prevention and care within the context of this school's environment, and it is premised on the acceptance that:
 - a. It is not possible to know with certainty who has HIV/AIDS and who does not, given the nature of the condition and the capacity of medical testing
 - b. While there are no readily available statistics on the transmission of HIV in schools, there could be learners and/or staff with HIV/AIDS in our school.
 - c. Current scientific evidence suggests that, provided universal precautions are adhered to, adequate wound management takes place and there is strict adherence to universal precautions under all circumstances in the school, the risk of HIV transmission during teaching, sport and play activities is insignificant.
 - d. There is no risk of transmission from saliva, sweat, tears, urine, respiratory droplets, handshaking, swimming pool water, toilets, food or drinking water.
 - e. HIV cannot be transmitted through day-to-day social contact.
 - All educators, pupils and parents of this school undertake to uphold and support our school's AIDS Policy.
 - It is the policy of this school to implement Aids Awareness education in all our grades as part of our Life Skills/ Life Orientation learning areas.

POLICY REGARDING EDUCATORS AND LEARNERS WHO ARE HIV POSITIVE

- There will be no discrimination against any learner or educator who is HIV positive.

- Educators and learners who are HIV positive will be treated fairly and humanely.
- Special circumstances required by a learner or educator who is HIV positive will be accommodated by this school to the best of our ability.

AIDS/ HIV TESTING OF LEARNERS

- No learner may be denied access to this school, due to him or her being HIV positive.
- No learner may first be tested for HIV before access is granted to the school.
- No learner may be denied access to any academic, sporting or cultural participation because he/she is HIV positive.
- No learner may be tested for HIV as part of the school programme.

AIDS TESTING OF EDUCATORS AND NON-EDUCATORS

- No educator's application may be turned down because he/she is HIV positive.
- No educator or non-educator may be asked to leave or terminate his/her contract with the school, due to him/ her being HIV positive.

This policy document is not discriminatory in any way. It respects the rights of all individuals and includes all persons, including those with HIV/AIDS.

- No educator or non-educator may be discriminated against because they are HIV positive.
- No educator or non-educator may be asked to undergo testing for HIV as a school requirement.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OF LEARNERS WHO ARE HIV POSITIVE

- This school will accommodate learners who are HIV positive as far as practically possible.
- Learners who are HIV positive will attend all academic classes at this school for as long as the learner can do so effectively.
- Learners who cannot function effectively academically due to the progression of the HIV or illnesses relating to HIV may request to be exempt from school.
- The principal must be supplied with a recent medical certificate if a learner is leaving the school due to HIV related illnesses.
- The parents/guardian of the learner leaving school due to HIV related illnesses must inform the principal in writing of this intention. (Section 4 Schools

Act 1996).

- The school will try its best to supply the necessary support to such a learner for as long as it is possible (Section 51 School's Act 1996).
- If a learner displays neurological or behavioural problems directly related to his/her illness, the principal may:

- a) Suggest that the learner receives special learning support, or
- b) Suggest that the learner have a medical evaluation with the goal that the learner be accepted by a Special Needs School.

MAKING HIV/AIDS STATUS PUBLIC

- No learner or parents of learners can be compelled to disclose that they are HIV positive. While no learner or parents are compelled to disclose his or her HIV/AIDS status to the school, voluntary disclosure of HIV/AIDS status to the appropriate authority is encouraged.
- No educator can be compelled to disclose that he/she is HIV positive. While no educator or non-educator is compelled to disclose his or her HIV/AIDS status to the school, voluntary disclosure of HIV/AIDS status to the appropriate authority is encouraged.

VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE

- If any learner or educator voluntarily wishes to disclose the fact that they are HIV positive they are permitted to do so, but only to the principal. The principal must keep this information strictly confidential.
- Should the principal wish to discuss the HIV status of a learner with the relevant educator he/she must obtain written permission from the learner and his/her parents.

DISCRIMINATION

- Learners, educators or non-educators who refuse to attend the same class as a learner who is HIV positive will need to attend a disciplinary hearing. Parents of this learner will also be requested to attend such a hearing.
- Learners or educators who refuse to participate in the school's Aids Awareness Education programme, will need to attend a hearing.

EDUCATION

- Learners will receive Aids Awareness Education as a part of our Life Skills/ Life Orientation curriculum. The content will be Grade and age appropriate.

- It is not the policy of this school to hand out condoms to learners as a preventative measure.
- Educators need to familiarise themselves with our school AIDS/ HIV policy and may attend relevant seminars to learn and understand the terminology needed to effectively educate the learners.
 - Non-educators need to familiarise themselves with our AIDS/ HIV policy.

AIDS ADVISORS

- Every teacher should be conversant with this policy and be able to give basic advice regarding HIV/AIDS. This subject is also covered in the LO syllabus

SPORT

- No learner with an open wound is permitted to take part in any form of contact sport until the wound has healed, unless it is protected and covered with a waterproof dressing.
- Any learner who suffers a bleeding injury during a contact sport must be taken from the field immediately. The wound must be bandaged effectively (preferably with a waterproof dressing) before the learner may continue participating in the sport.
- No learner may play a contact sport in blood-soaked clothing.
- Learners who are HIV positive may participate in any sport, provided a medical report is received stating so.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Infection-control measures and adaptations must be universally applied and carried out in the school by all learners and employees, regardless of the known or unknown HIV status of individuals concerned.

- The parents of learners who have open wounds, open blisters or lesions are responsible for covering these areas with a waterproof bandage.
- If this cannot be done by the parents the school will assume the responsibility of covering areas with waterproof bandages.
- Educators who are treating learners must wear surgical gloves at all times.
- Any surface that has been contaminated by blood must be cleaned and sterilized with a strong bleach solution.
- Personnel who are cleaning these areas must also be given surgical gloves to wear.
- Instruments used during the treatment of a learner/educator or non-

educator must be disinfected immediately.

- Any cloth or material used in the cleaning up of contaminated areas must be incinerated/ placed in a sealed bag and be disposed of immediately.
- Toilet paper contaminated with blood must be flushed down the toilet after usage – provided that it is 1 ply due to the use of a septic tank. Contaminated cotton wool and other materials must be placed in a sealed packet and thrown away immediately.
- Every classroom must have a set of surgical gloves and sterile cotton wool within easy access of the educator and his/her learners.
- Every classroom must display a set of procedures showing learners how to deal with a "blood" injury in the classroom situation.
- Educators or staff member must take a fully stocked first aid kit with them on any outing or sporting fixture.