

January 30th, 2025.

Statement on Illegal Substances in Secondary Schools

The Ministry of Education is deeply concerned about recent reports of illegal substances, including alcohol, marijuana-infused foods, and sexual enhancement drugs, in our secondary schools. We take this matter seriously and are working closely with law enforcement and other relevant agencies to safeguard our students.

Reports confirm that these substances are being brought onto school campuses by students, some of whom are distributing or selling them to their peers. These drugs pose a significant risk to students' health and behaviour. In the past 48 hours, multiple students have been suspended after being caught in possession of these substances.

The Ministry fully supports schools in enforcing a Zero Tolerance Policy for illegal drugs and will continue collaborating with the Social Development Department and the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force to address this issue. We remain committed to ensuring student safety and identifying those responsible for bringing these substances onto school grounds, while also providing targeted intervention and support where necessary.

We urge parents and the wider community to have open discussions with young people about the dangers of drug use and to report any suspicious activity immediately. We also appeal to local establishments and vendors to refrain from selling these substances or any related paraphernalia to minors. Schools will continue to educate students on drug prevention and the serious consequences of substance abuse.

The Ministry appreciates the support of educators, parents and the community in maintaining safe and healthy learning environments for all students.



Orlandette R. Crabbe,

Chief Education Officer

