



▪ **ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME TO STUDENTS' SUSPENSIONS**

The programme was developed by the Educational Guidance Department of our school in collaboration with the Municipal Unit for Attention to Drug Addicts (UMAD).

It completes another aspect of the school life. It has a precedent in the experimental work carried out by the Guidance Department at this school some years ago. This project had been done with the teacher trainees' collaboration, but it had been something sporadic, intermittent and difficult to consolidate.

During the last two years, we count on the help of a psychopedagogue from the Municipal Unit for Attention to Drug Addicts (UMAD), who pays attention to the students who are expelled for one to three days in order to avoid sending them home.

The main objective is to reduce the incidence of suspensions and help teenagers to develop self-knowledge and self-control resources and positive procedures in front of conflicts, in order to avoid situations that damage the school life, which finally result in that type of punishments. The work sessions deal with cognitive and emotional aspects which are of great importance.

There are some basic points to make it successful:

- The right selection of candidates for the programme.
- The good coordination between all the people in charge: The management team, tutors, teachers, educational counselor, psychopedagogue and families.
- The results are really good, but could be even better with a bigger commitment from the part of the families, and also with the possibility of intervention through parents' schools and through the Unit for Attention to Families (UAF). These are aspects to take into account if the programme will continue, which we really want, also for next years.