

Drug education in - early years

Why have drug education in primary schools?

Children learn about drugs such as medicines, alcohol and tobacco from their families and friends by watching what they do and listening to what they say. Children also learn about drugs from TV, the internet, magazines and movies.

What is taught?

Drug education is taught in Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) lessons and is sometimes included in other lessons such as English, Human Society and Its Environment, and Science and Technology.



In Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2, students:

- learn about the safe use of medicines
- talk about why medicines and poisons must be stored out of reach of children
- practise how to contact emergency services.

In Years 3 and 4, students:

- learn how tobacco and alcohol can affect the body
- explore how drugs can be helpful and harmful
- look at the responsible use of medicines that might be found in the home
- consider ways to avoid passive smoking
- practise ways to protect themselves from harm
- discuss how drugs are labelled.

In Years 5 and 6, students:

- build on what they learned in Years 1 to 4
- discuss legal and illegal drugs, including restrictions on legal drugs that may make their sale or use illegal.

For example, it is illegal to sell alcohol or tobacco to people under the age of 18

- examine the possible effects of drug use on the community
- analyse the influence of media on drug use and attitudes towards drugs.