

Drug education in - later years

Why have drug education in secondary schools?

As young people are growing up they face a number of challenges, such as making decisions about drug use. Young people learn about drugs such as medicines, alcohol and tobacco by watching what people do and listening to what they say. The internet, TV, magazines and movies also expose young people to various drug issues.

In drug education lessons, young people receive up-to-date information about drugs in a safe and caring setting. Students learn about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and practise skills that help them stay safe.

What is taught?

In Years 7-10, drug education is taught in Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) lessons.

Students:

- build on what they have learnt in primary school
- learn about consequences of legal drugs such as the effects on a person's health, relationships and the community
- discuss reasons why people use and do not use drugs, including cultural or religious beliefs
- learn about cannabis and other illegal drugs
- analyse the influence of the media, for example, how the placement and use of alcohol and tobacco products on TV, in movies and advertisements influence people's behaviours and attitudes
- discuss the laws on drugs, including driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
- practise skills to help them stay safe, for example, how to say no if they are offered a drug or how to avoid getting into a car with a driver who is affected by alcohol or other drugs
- practise ways to respond to emergency situations
- identify support networks and agencies within their community.

In Years 11 and 12, students participate in Crossroads:

A Personal Development and Health Education Course for Stage 6 which encourages young people to:

- discuss issues that are important to them, such as safe parties and celebrations, responsible behaviour surrounding drug use, and the possible consequences of combining drugs
- develop skills for managing issues that they may face in adult life, such as the effects of drug use on relationships, employment and the community.

