



## What is drugs education and how is it taught at Grange Primary School?

"Drugs" refers to all drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

A drug is "A substance people take to change the way that they feel, think or behave".  
(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

The statutory requirement for the delivery of Drugs Education is:

**Key Stage 1:** Pupils should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines.

**Key Stage 2:** Pupils should be taught about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs and how these relate to their personal health.

At Grange Primary School we firmly believe that good drugs education is most effective when it is relevant to pupil's likely experience.

### Initial assessment

We begin our work eliciting the children's understanding of what is meant by the term "drugs" by using a short drawing and writing activity such as "Jugs and Herrings".

The children are told a story about two children who have found a bag on the pavement. They look inside and find that it has drugs in it. The pupils are then asked to draw what is in the bag. They are not lead in any way and this helps us to paint a good picture of their understanding. The story continues to ask the children who dropped the bag, what they had been going to do with it and what the children should do with the bag. The children are also asked if and when drugs could ever be good for you (i.e. some medicines) and if and when they might be bad for you.

We follow the Cambridgeshire Primary scheme of work for PSHE and Citizenship, which covers the statutory requirements and also teaches children about how they can keep themselves safe and healthy by making good choices. Drugs education is taught every two years as part of our rolling programme.

**In the Foundation Stage**, the key questions that are investigated with the children are:

- How do people look after me?
- Why do people use medicines?
- Who tells me it's OK to use medicines?

**In Key Stage 1**, the key questions that are investigated with the children are:

- What are medicines?
- How can I keep safe around medicines?
- What are alcohol and tobacco and why do people use them?
- Why do people use medicines?
- What do I think about doctors, nurses and hospitals?
- What can I do if I feel poorly?
- What are the risky substances at home and at school?

**In Key stage 2**, the key questions that are investigated with the children are:

**(In year 3/4)**

- Why do some people need medicines and who gives medicines?
- What should I do if I find something risky, like a syringe?
- How do my friends and the media influence and persuade me?
- What medicinal and legal drugs do I know and what are their effects?
- Who uses and misuses legal drugs?
- How and why do companies advertise drugs?
- Are there things which are dangerous to pick up?

**(In year 5/6)**

- What do I know about medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs?
- What legal and illegal drugs do people use and how does this affect society?
- What are some of the laws about drugs?
- When and how should I check information that I am given?
- What does misusing a drug mean?
- How do drugs affect the way my body and brain work?
- What risks should I look out for around substances?
- What skills can I use to keep myself safe around substances?

### Some scary statistics!

Two years ago the county conducted a confidential survey amongst children in years 4, 6, 8, and 10. The survey questioned children on healthy eating, physical activity, substances, safety, citizenship, relationships and mental wellbeing. 70 % of schools in Gloucestershire took part in the survey including Grange and there were over 12,500 responses when the data had been "cleaned" to ensure validity.

Many of the responses in Gloucestershire were inline with the national picture, however, patterns of drunkenness in year 8 were significantly above the national average as was the number of year 6's who reported having been drunk.

The average age that children said they had started trying illegal drugs was 13 years old. This is very young in comparison to the national average.

Of those young people that had tried drugs, 12.8% had tried cocaine (19.5% of year 10s).

Clearly there are areas of the county, including ours, that have serious issues with underage drinking and illegal drug use. We need to ensure that we provide quality drug education so that children develop the confidence and personal skills on which to base their decisions about alcohol, tobacco and drug use.