

Drug Awareness

Aims and Objectives

- To increase knowledge of the risks and effects of legal and illegal drugs, social, financial, health, emotional, etc.
- To reduce the negative impact of drug use among young people.
- To raise awareness of drug names, the different categories of drugs and classifications.
- To increase knowledge of different drugs and what they look like.
- To increase knowledge of social norms for peer groups.
- To increase knowledge of why people choose to take drugs.
- To change attitudes to drug use.

Activities:

1. Introduction

- Introduce yourself and GCA P & E
- Hand external facilitator to teacher and ask for it to be completed by the end of the session.
- Explain you're here today to discuss drugs and will focus on identifying legal and illegal drugs (including New Psychoactive Substances) and the effects of these drugs.

2. Legal / Illegal Drug Activity

- Resources needed for this activity are: whiteboard markers in different colours.
- Ask the class to come up with any names of drugs they can think of –this can be proper names for drugs they know and street names.
- Facilitator should write these up on the whiteboard - grouping together different street names with the proper drug name and using a different coloured pen for legal drugs compared with illegal drugs.
- Ask the class to work out what the different coloured categories are: Legal drugs and illegal drugs.

3. Drugs: Know Your Stuff Quiz

- Resources needed for this activity are: maximum of 15 Drugs Know Your Stuff Quizzes and Drugs Know Your Stuff Quiz Answer sheet.
- Hand quiz out to young people - this can be done in groups or pairs depending on class seating.

- Use Drugs Know Your Stuff Quiz Answer Sheet to facilitate feedback to class.

4. Drug Categories

- Resources needed for this activity are: 5 sets of drugs cards, 5 A3 effects triangle worksheet and 5 A3 effects triangle answer sheet.
- Explain briefly what each of these categories mean before handing out materials.
- Ask young people to work in groups and place each drug card in the effects category they think it goes in.
- Go around the groups, answering questions and offer help for drugs they are unsure of.
- Hand out A3 effects triangle answer sheet to each group and ask them to check they have put each drug into the right category.
- When groups are finished, ask for feedback on each category – are there any drugs they have never heard of, are they surprised by how many they got right/wrong – facilitate discussion around the response.
- Facilitate discussion around New Psychoactive Drugs at this point. Raise awareness by letting young people know that although these were previously known as “Legal Highs” it does not mean they are always drugs which will give you a “high”/Stimulant effect as the answer sheet shows and nor as previously mentioned in the quiz does it mean they are safe!

5. Twitter Evaluation

- Use tweet cards for this activity.
- Ask pupils to come up with a twitter post that tells of a safety tip they have learned during the session or a comment about an activity they enjoyed during the session and why.
- Encourage participants to follow @GCAtweets to see if their message will be posted!