



"The Drugs Don't Work!"

Age: Year 8/9

Timing: Approx 40/50 mins

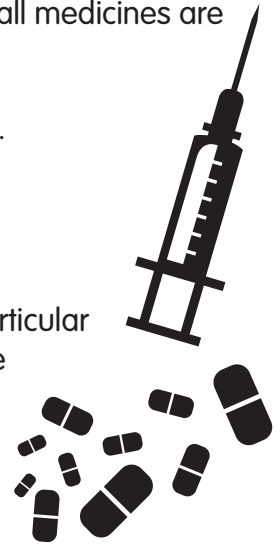
Aim: Raised awareness of legal and illegal drugs; Reinforcement of fact that all medicines are drugs, but not all drugs are medicines.

Resources: Newspapers for group work: Glue; Scissors; Large sheet of paper.

Organisation of the pupils: Groups 4 or 5

Introduction:

- Ask pupils to suggest times they have had to use medication for particular conditions (as prescription from doctor/going into hospital/daily use e.g. diabetes or asthma).
- Ask how they felt before and after taking the medication
- Ask if there were any safety rules for taking the medication



Development:

- Divide the class into groups of no more than 5 pupils per group.
- Give each group a large sheet of paper as well as a newspaper, scissors and glue.
- Ask the groups to cut out any stories or news articles which deal with the topic of drugs...remind them that not all drugs are illegal, for example caffeine, alcohol, tobacco.
- After sticking the news items on the page, ask the group to write beside the items words which would reflect the effects of taking these drugs.
- When the groups have finished this piece of work, ask the class to count how many drugs on all the lists are legal and illegal. Add any that you can think of which may not already be on the lists, and indicate their side effects.

Conclusion:

- Finish the lesson by asking the groups to come together to come up with a class definition of the word "drugs."
- Remind the class of the following main learning points:
 - All drugs can be dangerous, if not used properly
 - All medicines are drugs, but not all drugs are medicines
 - Drugs are substances which can alter your mental state, your health and how your body works

Extension Work:

- The class can conduct a survey on the number of pupils in the school who use medication for certain conditions
- The class can divide into groups and using the Internet do project work on major discoveries in medicine, for example penicillin and other antibiotics.