

Drug education in schools, 1999/00

This chapter presents the results of the first annual survey on drug education in schools.

In January 2000, local authorities in Scotland were asked to collect information on the drug education provided by all of the schools under their control. Each school was required to give details of whether they provided drug education, what type of drug education they provided and also their procedures for managing incidents of drug misuse. Around the same time, all other schools in Scotland (i.e. independent, grant-aided and opted-out schools) were also asked to provide similar details of their drug education policies and procedures.

Drugs are defined as mood changing substances including medicine, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and controlled drugs such as, for example cannabis, cocaine and heroin.

A school is defined as providing drug education to each pupil if every pupil who stays at that school “from start to finish” will receive drug education at some point. To provide “progression and continuity”, it would be expected that each pupil would receive drug education at several stages during their time at a particular school.

Responses were obtained from 95 per cent of local authority schools and 77 per cent of other schools. The survey covers all primary, secondary and special schools but not pre-school education centres.

The main findings are:

- Ninety-five per cent of schools in Scotland provide drug education. Ninety-six per cent of local authority schools do so compared with 88 per cent of other schools (Table 105).
- All secondary schools which responded to the survey said that they provided drug education while 96 and 75 per cent of responding primary and special schools, respectively, said they did so (Table 105).
- Ninety-three per cent of schools provide drug education covering tobacco while 86 per cent provide education involving controlled drugs. Drug education covering alcohol, tobacco, solvents and controlled drugs is provided by a larger proportion of secondary schools than primary schools. However, 91 per cent of primary schools provide drug education involving safe use of medicine compared to 74 per cent of secondary schools (Table 105).
- Over 90 per cent of local authority schools provide drug education which is in line with current national advice while 74 per cent of other schools do so (Table 106).
- In just under 85 per cent of schools, each pupil will be provided with drug education. This varies greatly by type of school, from 58 per cent of special schools to 84 and 97 per cent of primary and secondary schools, respectively (Table 107).
- Fifty-six per cent of local authority schools have written procedures for managing incidents of drug misuse while a further 14 per cent have such procedures in preparation. In the case of other schools, these figures are 40 and 24 per cent, respectively (Table 108).
- Just over half of local authority schools have written procedures for managing incidents of drug misuse which are in line with current national advice while just over a third of other schools have such procedures (Table 109).

105 | Percentage of schools which provide drug education and the types of drug education involved : 1999/00

Sector/type of school	Percentage of schools which provide drug education	Percentage of schools which provide drug education on :				
		Safe use of medicine	Alcohol	Tobacco	Solvents	Controlled drugs
Local authority schools						
Total	96	88	91	94	88	87
Primary	96	92	91	95	88	87
Secondary	100	74	100	99	98	99
Special	73	66	64	66	59	57
All other schools^{1,2}						
Total	88	75	86	87	83	83
Primary	80	78	75	76	69	69
Secondary	100	76	100	100	100	100
Special	84	69	84	84	81	81
All schools²						
Total	95	87	91	93	88	86
Primary	96	91	91	94	88	86
Secondary	100	74	100	100	98	99
Special	75	66	67	69	63	61

1 Covers independent schools and a small number of grant-aided and opted-out schools.

2 Schools which have both primary and secondary departments are counted under both categories.

Source : The Scottish Executive Education Department.

106 | Percentage of schools which provide drug education which is in line with current national advice¹ : 1999/00

Sector/type of school	Total	Primary	Secondary	Special
Local authority schools	90	91	95	67
All other schools ^{2,3}	74	65	80	78
All schools ³	89	90	93	69

1 Current national advice on drug education is set out in the following:

a *How Good is our School?* (The Scottish Office, 1996) - performance indicator 1.2 (quality of course or programme).

b *A Route to Health Promotion - self evaluation using performance indicators* (Scottish Executive, 1999).

c HELP UP-DATE on drug and nutrition education (SCCC Curriculum File No 9)

d 5-14 national guidelines on health education.

2 Covers independent schools and a small number of grant-aided and opted-out schools.

3 Schools which have both primary and secondary departments are counted under both categories.

Source : The Scottish Executive Education Department.

107 | Percentage of schools where each pupil will receive drug education : 1999/00

Percentage of schools which provide drug education where:

Sector/type of school	Each pupil will receive drug education ³	Each pupil will receive drug education which provides progression and continuity in their learning as they move through the school ⁴
Local authority schools		
Total	85	71
Primary	85	69
Secondary	98	93
Special	53	48
All other schools^{1,2}		
Total	80	69
Primary	71	62
Secondary	90	78
Special	81	69
All schools²		
Total	84	71
Primary	84	69
Secondary	97	92
Special	58	52

1 Covers independent schools and a small number of grant-aided and opted-out schools.

2 Schools which have both primary and secondary departments are counted under both categories.

3 A school is defined as providing drug education to each pupil if every pupil who stays at that school "from start to finish" will receive drug education at some point.

4 To provide "progression and continuity", it would be expected that each pupil would receive drug education at several stages during their time at a particular school.

Source : Scottish Executive Education Department.

108 | Percentage of schools with written procedures for managing incidents of drug misuse : 1999/00

Sector/type of school	Schools which have written procedures	Schools where written procedures are in preparation	Schools which do not have written procedures and such procedures are not in preparation
Local authority schools			
Total	56	14	30
Primary	51	14	35
Secondary	78	13	8
Special	65	11	24
All other schools^{1,2}			
Total	40	24	36
Primary	31	24	45
Secondary	55	20	24
Special	31	31	38
All schools²			
Total	55	14	31
Primary	51	14	35
Secondary	76	14	10
Special	60	15	26

1 Covers independent schools and a small number of grant-aided and opted-out schools.

2 Schools which have both primary and secondary departments are counted under both categories.

Source : Scottish Executive Education Department.

109 | Percentage of schools with written procedures for managing incidents of drug misuse which are in line with current national advice¹ : 1999/00

Sector/type of school	Total	Primary	Secondary	Special
Local authority schools	53	49	75	64
All other schools ^{2,3}	35	25	49	28
All schools ³	52	48	72	58

- 1 Current national advice on managing incidents of drugs misuse is set out in the following:
 a. HMI reports : *Issues in health education and promotion* (1996) and *Drug and nutrition education* (1999).
 b. HELP UP-DATE 1998.
- 2 Covers independent schools and a small number of grant-aided and opted-out schools.
- 3 Schools which have both primary and secondary departments are counted under both categories.

Source : Scottish Executive Education Department.