

What are drugs and what can their impact be?

Word	Definition
influences	A thing or person that has the power to affect another
nicotine	a poisonous substance used in cigarettes
alcohol	A drink that contains alcohol
media	A way to communicate with many people – television, radio and posters are all forms of media
prescribe	An order written by a doctor for medicine to treat a patient
misuse	A wrong or incorrect use
legal	Something which is against the law
illegal	Something which is not against the law

Key Knowledge and Concepts

There are different reasons for taking drugs such as curing or preventing illness. You can get medicines from such as prescription, over-the-counter, hospital, chemist, super-market.

When taking medicine it is important to ask an adult to help you so you can read the label to check it is safe for children to take and how much to take.



Drugs can get into the body such as: eating, drinking, smoking, sniffing, injecting, through the skin or through a cut and then travel round in the bloodstream.

Tobacco smoke contains tar and other chemicals which are harmful to the body. Nicotine is the drug in cigarettes which smokers get addicted to very quickly.

Alcohol slows the brain down and if someone drinks too much their brain is less able to control their body and feelings properly - this is called being drunk. There are lots of reasons why people may drink including to relax, show off, celebrate, to get drunk, or to see what it's like.



If you find something harmful, you should never pick it up and get an adult.