

Beat Drugs Fund
Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component

Note for Potential Applicants for the 2021/22 School Year

Purpose

This note serves to provide some ideas and references to facilitate potential applicants in planning their projects for the 2021/22 application exercise of the Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component (HSP(DT)) of the Beat Drugs Fund (BDF).

Points to Note

(A) Anti-drug Theme

2. In the first three quarters of 2020, the number of reported drug abusers aged under 21 has increased by 10% as compared to the same period of last year. Among them, students accounted for over 30%. In addition, the number of young cannabis abusers increased by 20% compared to the same period last year, and the number of ketamine abusers substantially increased by 76%. Schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are therefore encouraged to incorporate **harms of cannabis and ketamine abuse** when designing the activities as far as possible.

(B) Programme Design

3. To cater for the possible continued presence of the COVID-19 situation, schools and NGOs are encouraged to suitably **adopt creative activity design and flexible delivery modes** to meet social distancing requirements or in times of school suspension, so that the activities can be carried out flexibly while effectively disseminating healthy lifestyles and anti-drug messages. Some examples of activities which were successfully launched during the past year include –

- (a) Online anti-drug knowledge quiz;
- (b) Online visit to residential care home; and
- (c) Competitions (such as video filming, drawing and slogan design), etc.

4. Separately, parents and teachers are often the first line of defence against the drug problem. Schools and NGOs are encouraged to **organise activities and/or trainings to school personnel and parents** to enrich their anti-drug knowledge. Topics of activities/trainings may include –

- (a) Knowledge on major drugs;
- (b) Technique of handling drug problems of students/children; and
- (c) Resources available in the community, etc.

(C) School Drug Testing

5. School Drug Test can help strengthen students' resolve to stay away from drugs, build an anti-drug culture in schools and enhance motivation of those in need to seek help. Schools and NGOs are encouraged to continue to strengthen the promotion of the School Drug Testing component of HSP(DT) to parents/guardians, students and other relevant parties through different means, so as to encourage students' participation in the drug testing.

**Beat Drugs Fund Secretariat
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