

# Case Study



Life Education Centres

## **Glebe Infant School, Newent, Gloucestershire**

### ***Introducing very young children in an isolated community to positive health messages***

The Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire is known as one of England's most scenic areas of natural beauty, but the communities surrounding it in small towns such as Newent, sometimes have a different story to tell.

The relative isolation and insularity of the community often belies the picturesque image presented by this market town, many of whose buildings date back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Over the past few years, a significant problem has arisen with teenagers using drugs such as ketamine, cocaine and cannabis, putting a strain on both the local police and CPSO Officers as well as A&E Departments at local hospitals. It has also led to a high number of disengaged teenagers who do not do well in education or gain jobs easily on leaving school.

Some of the possible early signs of this disengagement are often spotted by parents and school teachers and there is a lower than average age of drug use onset amongst some of the pupils. The local Healthy Schools Team and Drugs Workers have been keen to work with primary providers such as schools and Life Education to ensure that positive messages reach children early on.

Mrs Lin Griffiths, Head of Glebe Infant School in Newent recognised the importance of reaching children as early as possible with positive messages about their own physical and wellbeing and arranged for Life Education to deliver sessions to Reception and Years 1 and 2 (Key Stage 1) as further support to their own PSHE programme.



Life Education dealt with topics such as how the body works and how to keep physically and emotionally healthy and safe. They also discussed the safe use of medicines as well as dealing with feelings and the importance of relationships.

The lessons were fun and used innovative teaching styles and active learning strategies, including songs, brain games and role play, looking at who and how the pupils could talk with if they were worried about any problems they had. In a section on 'How the Body Works', the specially-trained educators used a life-sized model of the human body whose different organs – such as the brain, intestine or heart, light up on touch.

After the visit, Headteacher Mrs Lin Griffiths said that the sessions supported and reaffirmed the work being doing as part of the PSHE curriculum in a very exciting and engaging way, and fitted well with other work such as SEAL.

*'It is used as a way to really grab the children's attention and to base extended work on. The stimulus the sessions provide is so helpful and the discussions that follow are often very animated and the children learn a great deal.'*

