



**BRADFORD SCHOOLS**  
**DRUG PREVENTION INITIATIVE**

**Promoting, Encouraging  
& Rewarding Good Practice**

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The Bradford Schools Drug Prevention Initiative (BSDPI) started in 1994 and is a joint Initiative between Soroptimist International of Bradford, Rotary International of Bradford and West Yorkshire Police. The aim of the Initiative is to motivate, reward and award schools which positively address the issues of drug, tobacco and alcohol misuse. The BSDPI Charter Award is extended to schools able to demonstrate an effective commitment to educating their pupils to a high level in drug prevention.

## Could your School be eligible for the BSDPI Charter Award?

Many schools throughout the Bradford district have satisfied the criteria set by the Initiative to gain a Charter Award and the right to include the Charter Mark on their school stationery.



## Drugs and Children

The prevalence and frequency of drug use amongst children has been reducing year on year, but in some areas, the fight to ensure reduction in use of legal and illegal substances is more difficult. Many so-called 'Legal highs' have prompted a recent spike in usage statistics, revealing a new audience who might otherwise have rejected drug-taking.

The introduction of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 has largely halted the flow of these substances, but already loopholes are being exploited which in the short term have enabled their continued indiscriminate sale.

Visit our website at [www.bsdpi.org](http://www.bsdpi.org)



## What happens when a school applies for a Charter Award?

### The Charter Initiative can Motivate:

#### Young People:

Students can be assured that they are effectively prepared for a world which uses drugs for many reasons, both good and bad.

It can reassure students that their school is positively addressing and openly discussing issues surrounding misuse of alcohol, drugs and other substances.

#### Schools:

It encourages schools and teachers who seek to positively address drugs-related education.

It provides an acknowledged 'quality assurance' for parents regarding drugs education in their child's school.

It can demonstrate the strengths and successes of a school to parents and the community, effectively underlining a 'Value Added' performance.

#### The wider Bradford Community:

The Charter encourages Schools, Pupils and the Community to positively tackle illegal and legal drugs misuse, through effective education. In the long term, this helps to reduce the harmful effects of illicit drugs on individuals and within the Community.

An experienced 'Link' Assessor is appointed to the school, the Charter Assessment process discussed, and a timetable agreed for submission of documentary evidence in support of the application.

A nominated member of school staff collates evidence of the teaching curriculum, and the work performed by Students in class.

The 'Link' Assessor, together with one other assessor, reviews and considers the evidence submitted, and together they visit the school and meet with the Headteacher, and some of the teaching staff, pupils governors and parents.

Discussions will focus around their involvement in the delivery of drugs education or policy development.

If required, they may raise issues concerning weaknesses or omissions with the Headteacher.

Assessors subsequently meet to formulate a judgement based on the evidence presented. If they believe the application to be worthy of an Award, they will make a positive recommendation to the BSDPI Management Committee.

A Charter Award is presented at a prestigious event, usually attended by the Lord Mayor and other dignitaries.

## The Charter Award Criteria

### Schools awarded the Charter will have:

Provided effective substance-related health education within a structured programme which is skills-based and seeks to empower the young person to make an informed choice.

Prepared and reviewed policies on drug-related issues, eg. Incident Management, the Curriculum, Pastoral Support and Behaviour.

Prepared such policies after consultation with staff, governors, parents and young people.

Supported staff by means of effective and appropriate training and resources.

Liaised effectively with other agencies to support the above.

Note: This is not a “drug-free” school award: it is process-orientated and not only values efforts made but also results achieved.

### Assessors & the Initiative

Assessors are the key people in the Initiative. They are volunteers drawn from organisations such as Rotary and Soroptimist International and also from other walks of life. The backgrounds of these special people are very varied, and they bring with them a wealth of personal and professional experience – with the most important skill of all being the ability to question and listen objectively. They have all undergone a comprehensive training and awareness-raising programme to equip them with the further areas of knowledge and understanding needed to assess the applicants. The training provided will have ranged from drugs awareness to policy development, also covering effective teaching strategies.

### How can I become involved?

If you are a member of either Rotary or Soroptimist International, speak to other members of your organisation, suggest an information evening where members of the Charter Initiative can visit you to give a presentation and answer any questions you may have. Use your Rotary or Soroptimist contact details if your club wishes to support the Initiative by sponsorship or donation, or if you think you have the skills and commitment to become an Assessor. If your school is interested in finding out more about the Charter Initiative, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact us via the website: [www.bsdpi.org](http://www.bsdpi.org)



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