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NARCOTICS DIVISION
SECURITY BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
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8 February 2024

Dear Principals,

Healthy School depends on You
Invitation for New Round of Applications for 2024/25

Young people would have to face different challenges at different stages of their lives, and it is very important for parents and teachers to provide support and guidance. To help students develop positive and drug-free attitude towards life, and enable them to enjoy healthy and fulfilling school life, the Narcotics Division (ND) and the Education Bureau (EDB) have since the 2011/12 school year promoted the “**Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component**” (the Programme) to all schools in Hong Kong. The Programme is funded by the Beat Drugs Fund Association (BDFa). In previous funding exercises, an **average of around \$450,000 was allocated to each participating school per school year**. At present, the number of participating schools has been increased to 237. With a view to benefitting more students, we are now inviting schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to apply for funding to join the Programme in the 2024/25 school year.

The Programme is a school-based anti-drug education initiative, aiming at enhancing the physical and mental health and well-being of students and fostering their resolve to refuse drugs through participating in diversified personal growth activities and voluntary school drug testing, thereby promoting the cultivation of healthy and drug-free school culture. Different varieties of activities had been organised in the past, including leadership training, adventure activities, emotional management workshops, growth support groups, career planning workshops, skill training workshops and parenting talks. Participants’ feedbacks were positive. Participating schools reflected that most of their teachers, students and parents agreed that the Programme helped foster a drug-free culture in schools and raise their anti-drug awareness, enhanced their knowledge on drugs, and strengthened

students' resolve to stay away from drugs and develop healthy lifestyle. Participating schools may partner with suitable NGOs of their choice to implement the Programme. We welcome more NGOs to take part in the Programme, and expect schools and NGOs to liaise closely and work towards the goal of helping students thrive healthily.

We will conduct a **briefing session in March 2024** to introduce the Programme and application details. During the session, representatives of existing participating schools would share their experiences in implementing the Programme. Your school is cordially invited to join the briefing session and the details of which are enclosed at Appendix 1.

To implement the Programme in the 2024/25 school year, please send us your application **on or before 12 April 2024 (Friday)**. The application form can be downloaded from the "Healthy School Programme" website of ND (<https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/HSP.html>). To plan your projects, you may make reference to latest "Points-to-Note for Applicants" as enclosed (Appendix 2, your special attention is drawn to the new requirements of mandatory activities to be implemented under "Programme Design") and the "Reference Protocol for School Drug Testing" available on the above website. The BDFA will examine individual applications and levels of funding support based on factors such as the feasibility of the projects proposed in the applications and the financial status of the Beat Drugs Fund.

More information of the "Healthy School Programme" could be found from the abovementioned website. For enquiries, please feel free to contact the BDFA at 2867 5974 / 2867 5975 / 2867 5976.

Yours faithfully,


(Kesson Lee)
Commissioner for Narcotics


(Edward To)
Deputy Secretary for Education

Enclosures: 1. Details of the briefing sessions
 2. Points-to-Note for Applicants

**Briefing on Healthy School Programme and Experience Sharing by Participating Schools
2024/25 School Year**

Date : 13 March 2024

Time : 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Format : Online conferencing

Language : Cantonese

Contents : 1. Introduction of the Healthy School Programme and the application procedures for the 2024/25 exercise (by Narcotics Division)
2. Sharing on the implementation experiences (by representatives of participating schools)
3. Q&A

Enquiry : (Telephone) 2867 5974 / 2867 5975 / 2867 5976
(Email) sb-hspdt@sb.gov.hk

*Note: Participants will be provided with the link and password of the online livestreaming via email five working days in advance.

**Briefing on Healthy School Programme and Experience Sharing by Participating Schools
2024/25 School Year**

Reply Slip

(Please fax or email to the Secretariat of the Beat Drugs Fund Association
on or before 28 February 2024)

To : The Secretariat of the Beat Drugs Fund Association
Email : sb-hspdt@sb.gov.hk
Fax : 2810 1790

Name of School / Organisation : _____

The following person(s) will attend the above briefing :

| Name | Post Title | Contact telephone number | Email address <i>(for confirming registration and sending the link of briefing)</i> |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|
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**Beat Drugs Fund
Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component
2024/25 School Year
Points-to-Note for Applicants**

Schools and organisations preparing to apply for the 2024/25 Healthy School Programme with a Drug Testing Component (HSP(DT)) are advised to read the following points-to-note as references for project planning.

(I) Anti-drug Theme

- According to the figures of the Central Registry of Drug Abuse (CRDA)¹, in the first three quarters of 2023, over 40% of the reported drug abusers aged under 21 are students. The most common type of drugs abused among the reported young drug abusers aged under 21 was cocaine (over half of them), followed by cannabis.
- The situation of young people committing drug offences is also worrying. Among the young arrestees aged under 21, nearly 90% were convicted. We must help young people stay away from drugs, strengthen their sensitivity in relevant offences, and remind them that young age is not a valid mitigating factor, so as to prevent them from breaching the law inadvertently.
- Cocaine was the most common type of psychotropic substance taken among drug abusers, overtaking “Ice” (crystal meth) for the first time in 10 years. In fact, according to reports published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2022 and 2023, coca cultivation had surged in recent years, and there is also an expansion of the cocaine market into non-traditional markets.
- Drug dealers often tout cocaine as a symbol of being posh and trendy, or for successful professionals. However, cocaine is highly addictive and will do countless harm (e.g. causing unbearable itchiness, nasal damage, delirium, and even death). We must impress upon young people that “no drug is noble or humble as they are all illegal, and will ruin people's bodies and minds”.
- Drug dealers are eyeing on the increasing popularity of dating apps and online shopping, and making use of them to tempt young people to try drugs or to join related activities.
- With reference to the above latest drug situation, schools and organisations should incorporate the following themes when designing their activities :
 - ✧ **The harms of abusing cocaine and cannabis;**
 - ✧ **Serious consequences of committing drug offences, in particular young age is not a valid mitigating factor;**
 - ✧ **The importance of refusing drugs and involvement in drug offences as well as refusal skills both online and offline.**

¹ Please visit the website for details : <https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/crda.html>

(II) Programme Design

- HSP(DT) is a school-based programme comprising diversified anti-drug programmes. To encourage schools and organisations to make good use of **the free anti-drug education resources provided by the Government** for enriching the project contents, schools and organisations **must** implement the following two types of activities :
 - ✧ Arranging students to visit the Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre² located in Admiralty (at least once in a school year); and
 - ✧ Showing anti-drug cartoons, video clips or short films³ on school campus (at least twice in a school year).
- Apart from students' participation, home-school co-operation is also crucial. Schools and families both have powerful impacts to the personal growth of young people. Parents and teachers are often the first line of defence against drug problem amongst youth. Hence, schools and organisations participating in HSP(DT) should **organise activities and trainings to school personnel and parents** to enrich their anti-drug knowledge. In particular, there is a need to help them support students to stay away from drugs and provide suitable assistance to students who encounters drug problems when necessary, as well as to cultivate a healthy and drug-free environment for students.

Recommended activities

- ✧ Arranging parent-child anti-drug activities (e.g. workshops, visits, etc.);
 - ✧ Organising parental anti-drug talks/workshops; and
 - ✧ Organising anti-drug training courses for teachers by schools or arranging teachers to attend relevant training courses
- The Narcotics Division (ND) launched a brand-new anti-drug publicity to rally community support for combating drug abuse. This includes a pair of anti-drug ambassadors “Agent Don’t” and “Agent Hope”, an anti-drug logo with the slogan “Let’s Stand Firm. Knock Drugs Out!”⁴. We strongly encourage schools and organisations to incorporate the above elements when designing the project.
 - Schools may incorporate the diversified school programmes into the existing school curriculum or other school activities, including incorporating the HSP(DT) activities into the overall time allocation of “Other Learning Experiences” for a more comprehensive and flexible school plan.

(III) School Drug Testing

- 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.

² Please visit the Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre website <https://www.druginfocentre.hk/en/index.html> or call 2867 2935 for booking details.

³ Please visit the Narcotics Division website for details : https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/publicity_materials.html#

⁴ Please visit the Narcotics Division website for details : https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/knock_drugs_out.html

- The personal data and testing results of any individual student obtained under HSP(DT) will not be passed to Police and other law enforcement agencies.
- Student who has been tested positive or who admitted drug abuse pursuant to HSP(DT) will neither be prosecuted for drug consumption nor expelled from school.
- Schools and organisations should 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.
- When planning the school drug testing, schools and organisations should refer to the “Reference Protocol for School Drug Testing” available on the HDP(DT) website⁵.

(IV) Other Points to Note

- Applications will be vetted by the Beat Drugs Fund Association (BDFA), and the application results is expected to be announced before August 2024. Schools and organisations with successful application who accepted the grant shall implement the projects in accordance with the programme guidelines. Among others, the guidelines specify that schools and organisations shall comply with all laws and regulations applicable in Hong Kong when implementing the project. The guidelines also set out the procedures and requirements in respect of the accounting arrangement, financial control, quotation procedures, monitoring of funded projects, etc.
- In conducting procurement by using the grant from Beat Drugs Fund, schools and organisations should take into account their continuing duty to safeguard national security and not to engage in any acts or activities which endanger national security. The management of schools and organisations should exercise professional judgment, sensitivity and prudence in assessing any potential national security risks or issues that may be involved in every stage of the procurement. The duty for schools and organisations to safeguard national security is a continuing one that subsists throughout every stage of the entire procurement process, including the pre-contract award stage and the contract management stage after contract award. Schools and organisations shall ensure that each of their procurement documents incorporates specific clauses to disqualify tenderers and to terminate the contract made pursuant to the procurement in the interest of national security.
- BDFA may immediately terminate the project upon the occurrence of any of the following events :
 - ✧ the school or organisation has engaged or is engaging in any act or activity that constitutes or causes, or is likely to constitute or cause, the occurrence of offences endangering national security or that would otherwise be contrary to the interest of national security;
 - ✧ the continued implementation of the project is contrary to the interest of national security; or
 - ✧ BDFA reasonably believes that any of the events mentioned above is about to occur.

⁵ Please visit the Narcotics Division website for details : <https://www.nd.gov.hk/en/HSP.html>

- Schools should observe relevant circulars and guidelines promulgated by the Education Bureau.

Beat Drugs Fund Secretariat
February 2024