



# Drugs

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### **Random drug testing in Schools**

(Originally passed – Spring 2004  
Conference)

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Conference notes that Tony Blair has announced plans to give head teachers the right to carry out random drug tests on pupils in schools.

Conference believes:

- 1) That this proposal will be ineffective in deterring students from taking drugs. Instead evidence from the US indicates that drug testing in schools does not deal with the problem of drug abuse but can have negative effects, including encouraging them to take drugs which leave the body's system more quickly than cannabis.
- 2) Emphasis should instead be placed on educating students about the dangers of drugs, legal and illegal, and that students who misuse drugs should be helped not unduly punished.
- 3) Making teachers carry out drug tests will erode trust between them and students and will not create the type of atmosphere in schools that is conducive to learning.
- 4) Some students, particularly black ones, who may be perceived as taking drugs may be targeted for more testing, leading to greater alienation and less willingness to attend school.

Conference instructs GPEx to call upon the government not to allow random drug testing in schools and encourage local Green Parties to oppose such tests at local and regional level.