

VIP

Grade 6 Program

Values Influences and Peers (VIP) is a universal prevention program, and is a joint project of the Ministry of Education and Training and the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Correctional Services. VIP programs and resources have been prepared and delivered in Ontario classrooms since 1984 by teachers working with the Ontario Provincial Police and municipal police services. The Guelph Police Services Community Relations Division is responsible for the coordination and delivery of the VIP program to the 39 elementary schools in the City of Guelph. This includes all the elementary schools having grades 6, 7 and 8 students in the Upper Grand District School Board, the Wellington Catholic District School Board, and the two Christian schools in the City of Guelph. The VIP Program is targeted towards the grade 6, 7 and 8 students Guelph, including youth ages 10- 13yrs old.

The core VIP curriculum is delivered to grade 6 students. The program includes a focus on drug prevention, however also looks at the broader issues of social influence, and includes the following lessons: Values and Rules, Decision Making, Peer Pressure, Healthy Friendships, Authority Figures, Youth Gambling Issues, Social Diversity, Youth and the Law, Drug Awareness and Bullying/Cyber-Bullying and Internet Safety. As part of the VIP program, each grade 6 student receives a VIP Student Workbook (updated and printed each year), a drug safety book with DVD included (purchased from Community Safety Net) and a Law of the Land book (purchased from Prevention Publications). Each grade 6 teacher also receives a VIP Teacher Workbook that includes suggestions for class discussions related to the VIP topics in the Student Workbooks, along with copies of all of the textbooks each student receives.

During the course of the school year, the grade 6 teachers and students work through the eleven lessons in the workbooks. Additionally, a police officer from the Guelph Police Services attends each of the 39 schools on four separate dates to partner in the instruction of the course, typically focusing on the topics of Drug Awareness, Bullying/Cyber-Bullying and Internet Safety. The officer also attends each school graduation ceremony.

Grade 7 & 8 Program

Every grade 7 class in all City of Guelph schools receives police-delivered presentations on Drugs, Criminal Activities and Internet Safety. These presentations incorporate a higher level of awareness than those discussions that occur on these topics within the core VIP program.