

## **Using the e-Bug Resource to Deliver Health Education in the Northern Ireland Curriculum (NIC)**

### **Introduction**

The e-Bug resource, operated by UK Health Security Agency, provides curriculum-aligned materials for teaching health education topics, including hygiene, infection prevention, and antibiotics.

This guide supports Northern Ireland (NI) teachers in integrating e-Bug within the NIC at primary, post-primary, and examination levels. By using e-Bug, teachers can enhance health education delivery through their school curriculum, equipping pupils with essential knowledge and skills to promote personal and public health. Each primary and Key Stage 3 activity within the resource also has specific NIC links.

### **Alignment with the Northern Ireland Curriculum**

The resource aligns with a thematic approach to health education supporting the NIC Key Elements of Personal Health and Moral Character.

### **Primary Schools (Foundation Stage to Key Stage 2)**

Health education in primary schools falls under the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) and World Around Us (WAU) areas of learning. e-Bug resources can support:

- Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1: Basic hygiene practices, handwashing, and understanding microbes.
- Key Stage 2: The spread of infection, antibiotic awareness, and responsible health behaviours.

The flexibility of the Northern Ireland Curriculum allows teachers to integrate this learning into their own schemes of work about personal hygiene in PDMU and science in The World Around Us.

There are opportunities for using the content to develop aspects of Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities (TSPC) and cross-curricular skills. Teachers can adapt the activities to suit the objectives of their school curriculum.

### **Post-Primary Schools (Key Stage 3 & 4)**

At post-primary level, e-Bug content addresses KS3 curriculum requirements for Science and Technology, Learning for Life and Work (LLW), and incorporates aspects of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE). E-Bug materials include microbe and infection experiments; expert content covering vaccination, disease outbreaks and prevention of disease; and scaffolded exploration of antibiotic resistance.

e-Bug content aligns with various examination subjects available at Key Stage 4, including:

- GCSE Biology: Health, disease, defence mechanisms and treatments; Communicable diseases; Aseptic techniques.
- GCSE LLW (CCEA): Personal health and wellbeing.