

Workshop: Online safety: Promoting children and adolescent' safe social media use

Workshop facilitators: Dr Dawn Watling & Beatrice Hayes

Notes: Rachel Nesbit

Attendees: teachers, researchers and practioners (e.g., Assistant Psychologists)

Introduction to current projects:

Beatrice Hayes – Children's awareness of the risks and benefits of Social Networking Sites (SNS) use: online self-disclosure and impact on social-emotional well-being

- Preliminary results from Study 1 – Females more concerned and likely to identify risky behaviours on SNS. Males more likely to identify behaviours positive (including risky behaviours)
- As children get older, larger concern about over-disclosing online
- Preliminary study 1 above with adolescents, but Study 2 is repeating with children. Goal is to gain a better understanding of children's (primarily primary school-ages) perceptions of the risk and benefits of SNS, as well as parents and teacher (Study 3).
- Study 4 – longitudinally assess the impact of SNS upon well-being over time
- End goal: interventional resource available to inform children, teachers and parents of risks and benefits of SNS

Dawn Watling –HIVE Hub for research into Intergenerational Vulnerability to Exploitation – interdisciplinary research group to address key societal issues, multiple perspectives to advance knowledge.

- In particular Dawn's work is around 4 key areas,
 - 1) Children's understanding – recognising online risks, desire to be liked/popular
 - 2) Social support – perception of social support
 - 3) Policies – school level, social policies, business policies
 - 4) Training – parental advice, interventions and teaching e-safety

Discussion of the issues, from your perspectives

Discussion focused around talking in groups (2 groups) about 3 key discussion points.

1) What do you do around e-safety in your school or organisation? Where do you get your advice?

- Resources from different places and organization – come in to do schools talk (e.g., police talk, local charities)
- Safeguarding policy exists but often hard to find and lengthy
- Training for teachers- although difficulties expressed about the trusted sources for the advice
- Out of date resources – everything moves very quickly
- Students further ahead of children – advice from children themselves
- Keep up to date – peer mentors

2) What is the good practice in your school around e-safety?

- Schools talk
- Ongoing not E-Safety week but ongoing reflection
- Blocking SNS sites
- Educating parents – get parents support. But difficulties in who will attend of older adolescence viewed as adults so not supported by parents
- Collaborating with other schools – valuable and beneficial to see consistency tackling issues and providing training – consistency needed in how content delivered between schools
- Staff more aware of themselves – just picking out negative in particular way could not be beneficial, about opening conversation and encourage awareness
- Training
- Incorporates a lot of different things – not always brought together
- Helpline for cyberbully, text

3) In an ideal world what would support you in promoting safe online use?

- Public safety videos
- Expert government to take lead especially with financing
- Having confidence in teaching it- not knowing
- PSHE was taken out of compulsory curriculum, but offers a good way to promote safe online use – coming back
- Where does work need to be going – someone needs to take responsibility. Concerns around safety, privacy, appear backwards (e.g., updates that by default have open privacy).
- Communicating and working with those who have an invested interest e.g., social media directly
- Embedding e-safety in other courses e.g., maths numbers /statistics
- Control on the school premises
- Raising awareness of support that is available
- Constant tackling – not an isolated week