E safety Update

Blackpool Aspire Academy

July 2018

1. SWGfL publishes report into What Causes Young People Upset Online

The key findings from this analysis centre on what "upset" means for children and young people going online and challenges our strategies to protect them from this upset. What causes upset is broad and variable, depending upon both gender and age of respondents. The report contains testimonials and quotes from young people about the things that they have seen online which have caused them upset.

In general, upset is most commonly caused by:

- Abusive comments from peers and others they interact with online
- Stories in the news and media that can be upsetting (for example, terrorist incidents, child suffering, and natural disasters)
- Animal abuse – videos that show animal cruelty, images of harm to animals, upsetting stories related to animals, etc.
- Upsetting content, such as shocking videos produced by YouTubers, content showing people being hurt, acts of self-harm, etc..

Link: https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/swgfl-publishes-report-what-causes-young-people-upset-online

2. Ofsted chief inspector backs ban on phones in schools

The chief inspector of Ofsted is backing head teachers who ban mobile phones to prevent bad behaviour.

In a speech, Amanda Spielman is expected to blame technology for making "low-level disruption" more common and endorse tough behaviour policies.

"The place of mobile phones in the classroom seems to me dubious at best," she will say.

Her speech comes after Culture Secretary Matt Hancock also called on head teachers to ban phones.

Ms Spielman is due to tell the audience at the Festival of Education at Wellington College that it was "entirely appropriate" for schools to use sanctions such as writing lines, detention or "community service" punishments such as picking up litter.

Should phones be allowed in schools?

'Don't be afraid to take phones off teens'

French MPs back school phone ban

She will say: "I fundamentally disagree with those who say that taking a tough stance on behaviour is unfair to children.

"Quite the opposite, there is nothing kind about letting a few pupils spoil school for everyone else."

Link: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-44553705

3. What you Need to Know About Teenage Life Online

There's a reflex negativity when people talk about teenagers online. What are they doing – for it surely must be something bad? And why are they doing it – for they surely can't have good reason? And how can we limit their use – because it's obvious that we must stop them doing this mysterious / pointless / boring / dangerous stuff?

This attitude shows a vast ignorance, which will fail the young people who will, whether we like it or not (and I do) grow up in a digital world. We need to understand – properly, deeply, in an evidence-based way – the benefits and the risks of online life. To do that, we first have to understand humans.

Contrary to popular opinion, teenagers are simply humans. But every human has a context, provided by their past and present, and including their stage of life. Teenagers are humans in a teenage context. They also have individual contexts but it is the teenage experience I'm focusing on.

Understanding this "teenage context" is crucial for anyone who works with and cares about young people. Understanding how machines work helps us make them work better: humans are just a type of super-complex machine which we can learn to understand.

This is particularly relevant when it comes to understanding teenage behaviour with screens and online: again, they act only as humans but in a teenage context.

The Teenage Guide to Life Online looks at everything to do with life online, from the obvious and much-discussed safety aspects to the much more interesting areas of concentration, distraction and effects on mental health and self-esteem.

Self-control is key

So, unfortunately, your students are biologically and psychologically drawn to bandwidth-hungry online activities, impairing the ability to do their best work. Humans do not multitask well: not men, not women, not teenagers. In fact, evidence shows that people who experience distraction most are the most distractable.

Additionally, many young people already have their bandwidth occupied by worries and negative thoughts – and you know when you have something "on your mind" how easy it is to make mistakes, forget things, fail to listen, snap at someone.

I believe good practice for anyone working with young people starts with understanding that teenagers are only humans in a teenage context, breaking away from parental protection and control towards independence and new networks.

Link: https://www.teachwire.net/news/are-you-losing-your-students-to-a-life-on-the-internet

For more information about e safety :

- **go to http://www.blackpoolaspireacademy.co.uk**
- **come into school and talk to a member of Student Services**