

Testimonial by High Storrs School, Sheffield

High Storrs school were given the opportunity to take part in the development and delivery of a sow commissioned by the ICO. We delivered the programme over 4 weeks as a unit of work to strengthen and enhance our PSHCE curriculum and covered

1. Personal and Private data
2. The Data Protection Act
3. The Freedom of Information Act
4. Subject Access request

We felt that the scheme of work was really important and was welcomed by our students who recognised the relevance and importance of it to them. They engaged with the materials, resources and debates with great interest, enjoyment and enthusiasm. They were able to give different examples themselves of what they had done in the past and what they have since learnt and will no longer do in the future. Eg. giving out their private information on Facebook.

They particularly enjoyed:

- seeing how the internet usage has grown, where it is going and how they play their part in it is through e-communications

They were surprised by:

- the timeline of the growth of the internet i.e. Facebook has only been around since 2004 and You tube 2005 as they haven't experienced life without the internet

They are now clear about what constitutes Private and Personal data and wanted to know more about sensitive information which led into many debates associated with the topics already covered in PSHCE i.e. Prejudice, Discrimination and Self Esteem.

They questioned:

- whether 14 year olds should be able to access information about themselves which others may not want them to know e.g. adoption.

They felt reassured by:

- the data protection act and how the ICO oversees their rights.

The discussion around the different scenarios were particularly useful in helping the students recognise the impact that the incorrect use of data or it getting into the wrong hands can have on them at a personal level e.g. Identity theft

Having reviewed the content, structure and delivery of the materials we have decided to integrate it into the PSHCE long term programme of study at age appropriate places in the curriculum. This is to ensure that the key messages are reinforced long term, in a consistent manner to be used as and when the need arises in a variety of contexts.

In an ever changing world our students are more aware of their rights and responsibilities as global citizens and the responsibilities of others e.g. The data protection act and the Freedom of Information Act as these are often referred to in the news and in our everyday lives.

When they started the SOW they were already aware of the need to keep themselves safe online but didn't know anything about the ICO. After the delivery of the programme they are now aware of the role of the ICO and their rights.

As a school we wanted to take part in the pilot because we felt it was important for our students to have a much deeper and wider understanding of the ICO, the data protection act and the Freedom of Information act at a personal level so they are able to use the resources in their own lives as and when necessary. We put a great deal of emphasis onto making them look at their own personal circumstances to make them more able to take their place in society as active citizens.

It was also vitally important for us to help our students understand how they can benefit from the power of ICT and innovative technologies safely without being afraid of doing so, knowing how to keep themselves safe in the digital world and the rights, responsibilities and laws which exist for our own protection.

Without reservation we would highly recommend that schools integrate this sow into their curriculum with consideration about how it can be used to enhance and strengthen the current PSHCE schemes of work where the topics naturally arise e.g. E-safety, rights and responsibilities, Identity, local government and politics.

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