

Police Apprenticeship Mission – A Taste of Peer Education

The Police Apprentice Mission helps young people develop resilience to risk and personal safety, helping their peers stay safe and informed by raising awareness, encouraging good choices and signposting to support and advice. The model is used across the county, but had not yet engaged with a specialist school for young people with special educational needs or disabilities.



For this session the focus was on online safety, something particularly pertinent for many of the young people who are active on social media. The session sought to collaboratively create ways to share key safety messages with the young people. A variety of methods for sharing the learning and reflections arising from the workshops were explored with participants – looking at how they could engage with their peers on the subject.

Outcome and impact



Pupils reported enjoying the session, and that they had learnt about the risks involved in engaging with the online world. A range of methods for encouraging awareness of online safety amongst their peer groups had been explored and imagined. These included creating a powerful dramatization of a bullying scenario as well as potential adaptations to video games popular amongst their friends and families.

This delivery of the Police Apprenticeship Mission produced a broad range of key messages confidently delivered by pupils with a range of styles, fully engaging their peer audience and staff. It was clear from the commitment, focus and the quality of the work created by young people, that the aim of the session had been met.

Advice, recommendations and learning

The model used had already demonstrated that police service staff do not have to deliver 'didactic-frontloaded-scare tactic' presentations to young people in order to engage with them. The experience of facilitating the session with this group of students reinforced this, demonstrating to the professionals involved that with a little forethought the approach could serve young people with a range of physical and learning abilities.

Young people often report that they know a lot about topics/risks associated with the online world already. Exploring and building on this knowledge can help them build on their learning with key safety information and advice. Knowledge is shared amongst the group of young people engaged in the "mission". Imaginatively exploring possible ways in which key learning could be shared, and then finding a way in which the group can actually do it, helps to embed and expand understanding in a way that suits the needs of the young people involved.



This resource is part of the Making Participation Work programme, a joint partnership between the Council for Disabled Children and KIDS, and funded by the Department for Education. For more information about the Making Participation Work programme, visit us at:

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