



lesson Two

SEX, RACISM, LIES AND VIOLENCE

There is a lot of bad stuff out there...

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

These notes are to be read in conjunction with the Lesson Plan (Number 2) and the 'Sex, Racism, Lies and Violence' worksheet.

Lesson Aim:

To raise awareness and check understanding of responsible use of the internet.

Year Groups: S1-S3

Children should be familiar with the concept of bad, offensive and illegal internet material. They should bear in mind key facts from lesson 1, particularly that the internet is unregulated. Finally they should develop an understanding that they have a personal responsibility to use the internet properly and safely, and to report any offensive or inappropriate material which they may come across.

Desired outcomes;

Raising awareness regarding the potential hazards of the internet, in particular offensive content which may incite racism, hatred, perversion, terrorism etc.

Children discuss how to resist pressure (including peer pressure) to do wrong, and to recognise when others need help and how to support them. Children will understand the issues regarding 'bad' material and know what to do should they encounter it. They should be aware of sources of help and support if worrying situations arise and have the confidence to use them.

Preparation:

There is always a danger that in advising young people about the potential hazards of the internet we make such material attractive and enticing. Research in the UK established that some drug education material back-fired, resulting in children being more likely to experiment with illegal drugs after having participated in the education programme designed to stop them doing so. Accessing inappropriate or offensive material may occur deliberately (ie someone types the word 'sex' into an image search) or by accident (ie legitimate student image search for a picture of pregnancy results in pornographic images being downloaded). Either way students need to develop responsible use of technology which, informed by policy, will be personally monitored. The issue may well be more of a problem outside the school, where filtering and blocking software may not be effective, or indeed in place at all.

Activity:

This activity is based around two main activities. The first exercise asks the students to respond to a list of internet content which could be considered 'bad'. Clearly some of the topics are far worse than others, and you may wish to ask the students to react more sophisticatedly than the worksheet requires, ie by asking them to mark the 'badness' of each topic out of ten. So, images of naked children might be 10, with jokes about politicians marked at...0! The second activity requires the students to draw up a set of rules for responsibly use of the internet. During the plenary session you can make a list on the board of the points made and the students can create policy posters for the school using an agreed list of the best rules devised.