Blog ENOC

ENOC Wales 2019 second meeting - Choosing a Theme

The Children's Commissioner's team introduced themselves and we discussed the aim of the meetings. Initially we carried out an activity on children's rights, and discussed children's rights and the 30th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child this year.

We then split into two groups, and looked at the ideas developed at the last meeting about children's rights in the digital age. Within these groups we discussed the importance of these ideas in terms of children's rights and decided which ones were most relevant. After the two groups joined and negotiated, we decided on a shortlist of six ideas, namely;

- Online education
- A.I. (artificial intelligence)
- A world without technology
- Online self-image
- Social media
- Cyberbullying

After a long discussion, we voted for the best idea. Self-image online had the majority of votes, with A.I. coming close second. The final activity at the meeting was to create a poster to decide what qualities we believe to be important in order to make effective teamwork.

The intention for the next meeting will be to decide how we want to deliver the project, and what aspects of the theme we should focus on.

ENOC Wales 2019 third meeting — The Effect of Social Media

At this meeting we discussed the impact of social media on the lives of children and young people.

Having decided that we wanted to focus on social media within our theme of online self-image, to start the meeting we did a team activity to see what information can be found about people by looking at their digital footprint. We saw how much information strangers can see about you by looking at your online accounts.

Our main activity was to discuss the question "Should Instagram remove 'likes'? ". It was a very interesting discussion which made us reconsider the impact that social media can have on young people. Some of the main arguments in favour of removing 'likes' were that they had a negative impact on mental health and that they caused people to compare themselves with others too much. The other side of the argument was that they were a fun way of discovering other people's interests and sharing new experiences with friends.

At the end of the discussion the majority of the group thought that 'likes' should be retained, but that we should experiment with the idea of hiding them so that only the person who posted the picture could see who had 'liked' it.

At the next meeting we hope to start developing our project and select representatives ready for the Brussels conference.