

FRONT PAGE & BIG NEWS

ALONE ONLINE: DO YOU FEEL HELPLESS?

MOST young people don't really know what they're signing up to online.

Some of you are using social media networks like Facebook and Instagram, but how many of you read the terms and conditions (T&Cs) when you joined? They are the rules you must obey to use a service. How many of you even remember agreeing to any T&Cs?

Well, that's the point made by Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield. She says the T&Cs aren't made clear enough, and it's got a lot of adults talking this week.

Anne and her team are responsible for the rights of children in England. Her new report, *Growing Up Digital*, says that too many of you are being left to work things out for yourselves and learn about the internet on your own.

The Commissioner's report found that when you sign up to social media sites, you are faced with long, complicated T&Cs that many adults don't understand either! She named and shamed Instagram in particular. Their site is used by 56% of 12 to 15-year-olds and 43% of 8 to 11-year-olds, but their T&Cs are 17 pages long! Anne got a lawyer to make the T&Cs more simple, so that a group of teenagers could read through them. She says that most of the young people were "shocked" by what they had actually signed up to.



Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield

The study also revealed that lots of young people wouldn't know how to report worries on social media sites.

The Commissioner is calling for digital citizenship lessons for all children, to help build up your online knowledge. She also wants social media companies to simplify their terms and conditions for their younger users, so that you know what you're signing up to.

"When it was created 25 years ago, the internet was not designed with children in mind. We need to rethink the way we prepare children for the digital world," says Anne.

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER – this post was established under the Children Act of 2004. The Commissioner has a duty to promote and protect children's rights and to represent the views and interests of all children in England to those who make decisions.

YOUR MENTAL HEALTH PRIME MINISTER PROMISES MORE SUPPORT

PRIME Minister Theresa May has promised to change how mental health issues are dealt with in the UK.

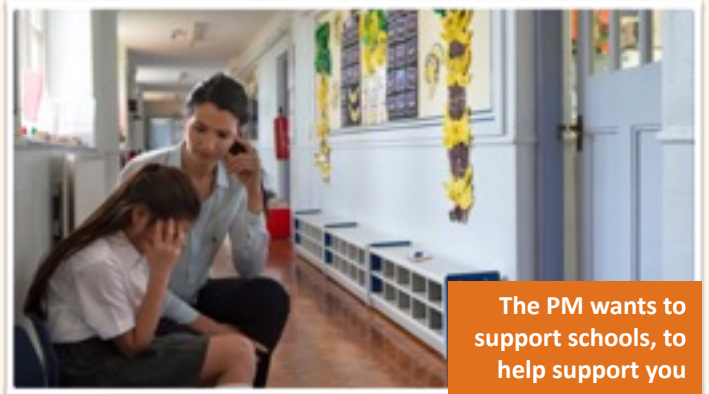
A mental health problem can affect anyone, at any age. This week, Theresa May promised to make sure that people who are struggling can get the help they need.

One in four people living in the UK will experience a mental health problem at some point in their lives. New research has shown that more than half of mental health problems start by the time someone is 14.

Mental health is about how you feel, and how you deal with life's ups and downs. It is just as important to be fit and well mentally, as it is physically.

The Prime Minister wants to make sure that teachers are trained to help pupils who are dealing with mental health issues like anxiety and depression. Right now, some of those people may feel unsupported and alone.

During her speech this week, Mrs May also pledged £15 million for hospital alternatives, like crisis cafes and community clinics, to give struggling young people somewhere to go to get support. The Prime Minister said that, right now, people struggling with their mental health are treated poorly. She promised to change this.



The PM wants to support schools, to help support you

Mrs May said: "This is a historic opportunity to right a wrong, and give people deserving of compassion and support the attention and treatment they deserve."

At *First News*, we're running an online poll on your mental wellbeing, to give you the chance to have your say on what would help you when you're feeling low and stressed. Head to live.firstnews.co.uk/polls to join in.

COMPASSION – concern for the suffering of others



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'ALONE ONLINE'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

- A1.** Who is Anne Longfield?
- A2.** What is the name of Longfield’s new report and what does it say?
- A3.** What would digital citizenship lessons involve?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

- B1.** Why is it significant that Instagram’s T&Cs are 17 pages long?
- B2.** Why do we need to “rethink the way we prepare children for the digital world”?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

- C1.** Why is the main body text for this article continued on p4 of the newspaper when it would have fitted on the page if the main picture had been made smaller?



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Question for discussion

- C2.** In your opinion, are digital citizenship lessons a good idea?

'YOUR MENTAL HEALTH'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

- A4.** During her speech this week, what did the Prime Minister, Theresa May, promise to change?
- A5.** What is mental health?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

- B3.** Why is it important that there is a focus on mental health issues?
- B4.** Why do you think that people struggling with their mental health issues are “treated poorly”?
- B5.** How does Theresa May want to effect change?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

- C3.** Mrs May said: “This is a historic opportunity to right a wrong, and give people deserving of compassion and support the attention and treatment they deserve.” Comment on her use of language.



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B2. Why do we need to “rethink the way we prepare children for the digital world?”

Dotted lines for student response.

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Why is the main body text for this article continued on p4 of the newspaper when it would have fitted on the page if the main picture had been made smaller?

Dotted lines for student response.



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PAGE 4

Dotted lines for student response.

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AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS

News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom.

The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE

The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide to the reading skill each question is practising. Suggestions are given for a starting point for responses that students would be expected to give at the start of KS3. Further suggestions then give fuller, more developed responses that students will work towards by the end of KS3, in preparation for the non-fiction elements of GCSE English Language.

TEACHER ANSWERS

Part A

A1. Who is Anne Longfield?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- Anne Longfield is the Children's Commissioner.

Development

- Anne and her team are responsible for the rights of children in England.

A2. What is the name of Longfield's new report and what does it say?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- Her new report is called 'Growing Up Digital' and it says that too many children are being left to learn about the internet on their own.

Development

- The Commissioner's report found that children who sign up to social media sites are faced with long T&Cs that are too complicated for them to understand. The study also revealed that lots of young people wouldn't know how to report worries on social media sites.

A3. What would digital citizenship lessons involve?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Expected response

- Digital citizenship lessons would be for all children to help to build up their online knowledge.

Part B

B1. Why is it significant that Instagram's T&Cs are 17 pages long?

READING SKILL- Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- It is significant that Instagram's T&Cs are 17 pages long because that is a lot of text and it suggests that the T&Cs are very complicated. Yet Instagram is used by 56% of 12 to 15-year-olds and 43% of 8 to 11-year-olds.

Development

- Indeed, when Anne Longfield got a lawyer to make the T&Cs simpler, the teenagers that read them were "shocked" by what they had actually signed up to. Therefore, the company needs to be more aware of the needs of their young users and the Commissioner wants all social media companies to simplify their terms and conditions so that younger users understand what they are agreeing to.

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B2. Why do we need to “rethink the way we prepare children for the digital world?”

READING SKILL- Infer information and justify with evidence from the text and own knowledge

Possible answer

Starting point

- We need to “rethink the way we prepare children for the digital world” because when it was created 25 years ago, the internet was not designed with children in mind.

Development

- The digital world has grown in a way that few would have predicted and it has become part of everyday life for many people. However, there is limited regulation of the internet and the rights of children are not applied in the same way that they are elsewhere. Therefore, in order for children to be able to benefit from the internet whilst avoiding the dangers, they need to be given support. They need to be educated in their rights and responsibilities and to be confident about reporting any concerns. There should also be more monitoring of social media companies and the way in which they respond to children and present their T&Cs.

Part C

C1. Why is the main body text for this article continued on p4 of the newspaper when it would have fitted on the page if the main picture had been made smaller?

READING SKILL-Identify benefits of text organisation and presentation

Possible answer

Starting point

- The main body text for this article is continued on p4 of the newspaper because it is a front page article.

Development

- As the front page article needs to hook readers and make them buy the newspaper, there has to be a lot of emphasis on an eye-catching headline and main picture. The main body text is never usually the focus.
- The image of a young person on a smartphone hiding under a blanket creates interest because it suggests that there might be problems caused by the digital world. This is confirmed by the headline: “ALONE ONLINE: DO YOU FEEL HELPLESS?” As there are a lot of fears about this topic it is an appropriate front page article. However, as smartphones are quite small, the main picture has to be large in order to get the message across.
- As there is quite a lot of information on young people’s online use, the text continues onto p4. This is also a way of drawing the reader further into the newspaper. As they look for the rest of this story on p4, other headlines might interest them.

Question for discussion

C2. In your opinion, are digital citizenship lessons a good idea?

READING SKILL- Develop opinions and provide justifications for view points

Possible answer

Yes

- Young people spend a lot of time online and the digital world is an important part of their lives. Therefore, citizenship lessons should change in order to reflect that.
- It is vital that young people are taught how to report any concerns that they have online or with social media sites. They can’t be expected to know what to do instinctively.

No

- Young people are bombarded with enough information at school.

YOUR MENTAL HEALTHPart A

A4. During her speech this week, what did the Prime Minister, Theresa May, promise to change?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- Theresa May has promised to change how mental health issues are dealt with in the UK.

Development

- She promised to make sure that people who are struggling can get the help they need and to change the way in which people with mental health issues are “treated poorly.”

A5. What is mental health?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- Mental health is about how you feel, and how you deal with life’s ups and downs.

Development

- It is just as important to be fit and well mentally, as it is physically.

Part B

B3. Why is it important that there is a focus on mental health issues?

READING SKILL- Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- It is important that there is a focus on mental health issues because many people living in the UK will experience a mental health problem.

Development

- Indeed, one in four people will be affected at some point in their lives. Also, new research has shown that more than half of mental health problems start by the time someone is 14. Maybe if the mental health issues could be focused on earlier then issues could be addressed before they develop and the numbers of those suffering from poor mental health could be reduced.
- There is a strong connection between mental health problems and physical problems. For example poor mental health can affect immune function. Therefore it is important that mental well-being is not ignored.
- If mental health is ignored then it can affect the workforce as it can render people unable to work. Families can also be seriously affected as the children of people with mental illness often don’t get the care and support that they need and may become more prone to mental health issues themselves. Therefore, it is in the best interests of society to focus on mental health issues.

B4. Why do you think that people struggling with their mental health issues are “treated poorly”?

READING SKILL-Infer information based on own knowledge

Possible answer

Starting point

- It is likely that people struggling with their mental health issues are “treated poorly” because mental illness cannot be seen in the same way that a physical illness might be and so people with mental health problems may not be taken seriously.

Development

- Furthermore, many people don’t understand mental health problems and this may lead them to have a negative view of those who experience them. Indeed there is a stigma attached to mental health conditions and those suffering from them often face discrimination in the workplace.

B5. How does Theresa May want to effect change?

READING SKILL- Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

- Theresa May pledged £15 million in order to effect change.

Development

- She wants the money to be used to fund places that struggling young people can go to get support. This would include hospital alternatives like crisis cafes and community clinics.
- The Prime Minister also wants to make sure that teachers are trained to help pupils who are dealing with issues such as anxiety and depression.

Part C

C3. Mrs May said: "This is a historic opportunity to right a wrong, and give people deserving of compassion and support the attention and treatment they deserve." Comment on her use of language.

READING SKILL- Recognise effect of language choices

Possible answer

- Mrs May's reference to a "historic" opportunity means that it is a very important opportunity. However, her choice of this word also suggests that the changes that she will make in this area will be so significant that they will be important in history.
- "Compassion" is concern for the sufferings of others and by stating that people with mental health issues are "deserving" of compassion, May is making a move to change the negative attitudes that she alludes to. This is because if people are deserving of something then they are worthy of it. So people with poor mental health are worthy of understanding and care.
- By mentioning "treatment" May highlights the fact that people suffering with mental health issues are suffering with an illness. Therefore, they deserve support in the same way that a person with physical health issues does.