

UK Children Go Online – Focus group schedule 2004

Websites to be discussed in focus groups (include links on UKCGO website)

Definitely show these:

www.need2know.co.uk (DfES)

www.bbc.co.uk/teens (BBC teenage site, pink/blue split)

www.childnetacademy.org (Would it encourage them to set up a webpage?)

www.epal.tv (Connexions Service, see 'Submit your stuff', 'Become a youth consultant')

If time left, also show these:

www.young.gov.uk (youth section of the new Government portal Directgov, see 'Have your say', 'Find your representative', 'What would you do if you were Scotland's First Minister – with £20bn to spend?')

www.rockthevote.org (see Youth as E-citizens report, K. Montgomery)

www.mykindaplace.com (commercial e-zine for girls, has an advice section)

www.monkeyslum.com (mykindaplace equivalent for boys)

www.teentoday.co.uk (teen chat and community site set up by a teenager)

www.dubit.co.uk (company set up by a group of teenagers, see 'Let them know what you think' and 'Companies want to talk to opinion formers')

www.thesite.org.uk (popular personal advice site)

Others:

www.cypu.gov.uk/youth/index.cfm (boring website for young people by the Children's and Young People's Unit, 'This is your chance to have your say and really influence the Government's plans to create better services for children and young people all over England.')

www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc (BBC children's site)

www.websafecrackerz.com (games and info around online safety)

www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk (boring site of the UK Youth Parliament)

www.childrens-express.org (young people's news agency, no possibility to submit stories)

<http://student-voices.org> (project by the Annenberg Public Policy Center encouraging the civic engagement of young people through education)

www.michaelmoore.com

www.developingcitizenship.org.uk/dp_sc.htm (teaching resource about citizenship)

www.nya.org.uk/Templates/internal.asp?NodeID=90728 (info about Local Democracy Week, National Youth Agency website)

www.byc.org.uk (British Youth Council)

<http://web.ask.co.uk/uk?q=how+do+I+make+a+personal+homepage&qsrc=0&o=0&rb=1>
(Search results for 'How do I make a personal homepage')

www.bbc.co.uk/dna/ww2 (BBC educational resource on 'WW2 People's war')

www.youngscot.org (Scottish youth information portal for 12-26 year olds)

www.talktofrank.com (personal advice site about drugs)

www.there4me.com (NCPCC personal advice)

Interview schedule for secondary schools

(1) Introduction

- We would like to know whether the internet is something more than entertainment or help with school work. Does it give you a chance to contribute your own ideas, or join in with public debate, or express yourselves so that lots of other people can hear your opinions? Is it a new source of advice and help for young people? We've been talking to some of the people making different kinds of websites for young people - from government, from business, from young people's organisations - and they are really hoping that they can design the kind of material that you'd like on the internet, that would give you a chance to benefit, and join in. But, now we are to get an idea from you about what young people themselves might want, since there are many people putting money and effort into this.
- Get general views at this point.
- We'd like to show you some of the sites out there. Perhaps you have some good sites to show us also? If so, let's see these first.

(2) Research questions to consider

- Examine interactivity closely – how do they

- Where do the sites lead (or could lead)? Do they take you on a journey, open up new possibilities, or do they keep you on site? Do they mainly promote activities online or offline?
- What do you think will happen if you click/respond/email etc? What would you like to happen?
- In what ways does the site surprise or disappoint you?
- Do you know similar/ better sites?
- Trustworthiness:
 - Who do you think has set it up? Why?
 - Do the sites make clear who funds them, what their purposes are, etc (eg Rock The Vote funded by MTV)? Is this transparent?
 - Would you trust the site? Why (not)?
 - What is important to make a site (look) trustworthy?
 - Do you think young people have been involved in setting y 10.02 0 0 10.02 162.p?629nn

- Do you think this should be different for personal advice sites, political sites or youth sites?
- How could it be improved etc and who should do it?
- Who would benefit from hearing your views?
- Would it matter if these sites did not exist? Are you glad someone is making them?
- What kind of worl

Interview schedule for primary school kids: Design a website for your school

Materials:

Large paper pad (from flip chart), Post-it notes in different sizes and colours, marker pens in different colours, digital camera

Introduction:

Researcher sticks Post-it with "School websites" written on it on the top of the sheet of paper to demonstrate how to do it (i.e. write/draw an element of the website on a Post-it note (e.g. link, picture, text etc.) and stick it on the page, they can be moved around and changed later), explaining that they can change the name of the website to something different and more interesting but not use their schools real name because we might show their design to someone else

Post-it notes:

I think it is better to use Post-it notes than to ask them to write/draw directly onto the paper as it saves time not having to decide who draws what and where. If they don't like

Jokes

Fun activities

Should they be part of a school website or would they just distract from school work?

Other:

Design (*Do they want bright colours/sound/animation or a plain but functional site?*)

Security, Log-in (*Explore their awareness of online safety*)

Adverts (*Do they mind/ notice adverts on the web? Which companies would they like to sponsor their school?*)

Links (*Explore what links are on the school website*)

Additional info

Rock the Vote

Could a website like this work in the UK to get more young people to vote and get engaged?

Rock the Vote was established by music industry leaders to engage youth in the political process. It is best known for its work to organize voter registration drives, get-out-the-vote events, and voter education efforts for young adults. But its web mission is wider, as its boldly colored, Flash-enhanced website makes clear.

The interactive menu featured at the top of every web page offers a spectrum of options:

Epal

The epal project is based on the creative use of new media and technologies, combined with innovative approaches to the design and delivery of public services, to produce a unique resource for 13-19 year olds in Greater Manchester. It is an electronic information service, fronted by an electronic personal assistant, which creatively combines contributions by young people for young people; information, advice and guidance for young people; opportunities for consultation, dialogue, and participation with a range of public and voluntary sector agencies; and opportunities for young people to develop their skills and knowledge both electronically and in face to face settings.

The primary aim of epal is to provide a multi-channel electronic platform through which a virtual community of young people can access information and services useful to them, supported by a virtual community of specialist agencies; and through which young people can also participate in the ongoing design and development of those services, and in contributing their own content.

The objectives of epal are to:

- § contribute, alongside more traditional ways of doing things, to improved outcomes for young people, measured in terms of their capacity to negotiate the risks and challenges of teenage life,
- § maximise their opportunities for personal and social development;
- § gain achievements in terms of informal and formal education;
- § and achieve a successful transition to adulthood.

It is also, through innovative and creative means, to exploit the potential of new technologies for supporting and