THE BRITTONS ACADEMY

Safeguarding Bulletin

October 2023

EMPOWER
LEARNING ACADEMY TRUST

Online Safety - Wizz

Wizz is a free social networking app that enables users to chat live online with strangers from around the world and exchange gifs, pictures, and videos. It is intended to be a place to make online friends however it works similarly to a dating app, where you are presented with other people's profiles and can choose to either swipe them away or swipe to start a conversation.

You must be 16 years or older to have a profile on Wizz and it includes age verification that is meant to vet your entered date of birth against a photo you supply of your face however it does allow younger users to create an account and the verification process is easy to get around.

Find more information on how to address online safety with young people:
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keepingchildren-safe/online-safety/socialmedia/chat-apps/

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Concerned-about-your-child/Online-contactand-staying-safe/

https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-andresource/have-a-conversation

What are the risks?

Once on the app, young people can mix with adults and can be connected if they accept each other's friend requests. Harmful content can easily be found, and users can also expect to see content including swearing, sexual content, violence, drug/substance content, and much more either on others' profiles or in chat conversations. The whole point of Wizz is chatting with strangers and, without a guarantee of age verification and chat moderation, catfishing, grooming, and online sexual abuse are all possible

1

Talk to young people about the potential risks and dangers of sharing personal information on Wizz and other social media app.

2

Encourage them to look at their privacy settings to see who can see what they're sharing.

3

Remind them that not everyone is who they say they are online and the dangers of talking to strangers, just as you would in the real world

Wizz

Havering EPEC Hub

- **Upcoming course information:**

- **Venue: Rainham Village Children's Centre Date: Every Friday (except for half term) Starting: 6th October until 1st December 2023 Time: 11am-1pm**

- **Living with Teenagers**

- **A free course for parents of children aged 12-16**

If you are interested or would like more information contact:
EPEC@havering.gov.uk

Bring up happy and self-confident Young people

What is the EPEC Living with Teenagers course?

The Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) Living with Teenagers is an 8-week course that aims to provide accessible and effective community based parenting support for parents of adolescents aged 12-16 years. It creates a trusting group ethos where parents are encouraged and supported to explore strategies to

Improve young people's social, emotional and behavioural development

Improve young people's well-being

Reduce adolescent and family difficulties

Improve parent confidence

Improve parenting skills and satisfaction

Improve social and community connectedness

Why is it different?

Accredited members who have completed the EPEC Parent Group Leader training facilitate the Living with Teenagers course. Their experiences, backgrounds, skills and qualities make each session inviting and engaging

Who is the course for?

The Living with Teenagers course is for parents in Havering who have one or more children between the ages of 12 to 16 years. The course content is recognised by schools and youth services in the London Borough of Havering

"Thank you for giving us your time and guidance, you have given us lots to think about in how we need to approach our teenagers"

"Not going to lie- I really didn't want to do the teenagers parenting programme and only came on it cos the Mrs wanted me to. I was embarrassed to tell my mates I was on this course...until we used the strategies and saw that they worked with our son. Now I don't care who knows"

"Thank you for the course. Even though we felt we knew what we was doing, it was reassuring to be on the programme to know we are not alone and doing our best"

"It was getting tiring to see my first-born arguing with her mum all the time. This course has changed that. It's a beautiful thing to see that Mother and daughter bond grow again"

Vaping

As part of our commitment to safeguarding students, in addition to covering the risks in our PSHE curriculum and wider SMSC programme, we would like to share some information and resources with parents and carers about the growing problem of vaping amongst teenagers.

[How dangerous is vaping - and why the concern over young vapers? - BBC News](#)

There have been lots of highly-publicised reports over the last year about the proliferation of vapes, and the rapid rise the number of teenagers using them. Of particular concern are illegal vapes, which do not meet the industry safety standards yet are widely used by teenagers who might be unable to buy legal ones due to age restrictions. [Vaping: High lead and nickel found in illegal vapes - BBC News](#)

Additionally, cheaper, disposable vapes have made it more accessible to those with less money to spend, including teenagers, and there is growing criticism of the way these are marketed to appeal to young people. Not only the flavours and scents, but designs that look just like highlighter pens, for example, and ones which are very small, and these are all easier to conceal. There are plans to ban disposable vapes by2024
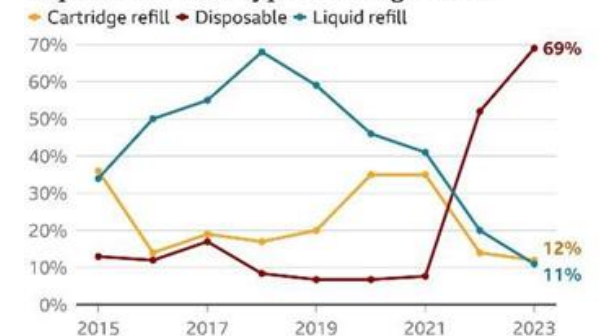
The BBC series Panorama have a new documentary out this month which investigates growing concerns over the rapid rise in the number of teenagers vaping and becoming addicted.

[BBC One - Panorama, Teenage Vaping: What's the Harm?](#)

More 11 to 17-year-olds now use disposable vapes than other types of e-cigarettes
◆ Cartridge refill ◆ Disposable ◆ Liquid refill

Figures exclude those who don't know or won't say
Source: Ash Smokefree GB Youth Surveys, 2013-2023
BBC

The campaign charity Action on Smoking and Health and the national advisory service **www.talktofrank.com** have lots of good resources for both young people and parents and carers. You can read ASH's June 2023 report here: **Use-of-vapes-among-young-people-GB- 2023.pdf (ash.org.uk)**

FREE Fitness Sessions for students at The Brittons Academy

SW!TCH

FITNESS SESSIONS

Rock climbing • Gym cardio
Bodybuilding • Boxing circuit classes
Sports (inc. basketball, football, badmington)

Join us for **FREE!**
Every Thursday
4:30PM–6:00PM

YMCA Romford
29 Rush Green Road
Romford RM7 0PH

For more info, contact Thomas
07749 507 081

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LifeLine Projects