

Report from internet safety interactive workshops for Polish primary classes EEB1 (20-21-22 of May 2019)

Having observed how much time children spend in front of computers, tablets or smartphones (searching for information, watching YouTube, using social media, playing etc.), connected to internet with or without active adult supervision, parents of the Polish section decided to organise a dedicated workshop on internet safety.

We have found experts who organise internet safety sessions in schools in Poland and they have expressed interest and availability to come and organise this kind of interactive workshops in our school - Polish sections.

Workshops took place from 20-21-22 of May 2019 in the following classes:

5PLA
5PLB
6 x 45 min

4PLA
4PLB
4 x 45 min

2PL
3 x 45 min

Mr Marcin Grudzien is a coach recognised and recommended by the foundation "Sto Pociach". He is experienced in coordinating projects in the field of internet safety and media education. He was participating in two big actions in Poland dedicated to the subject of cyber safety among children - "Cyberbezpieczni" and "Cybernauci".

He run the sessions being accompanied by a second expert. In this way they run workshops in two classes at the same time.

The workshops covered many issues starting from understanding the concept of global net, blogs, internet stores, social media, but also included topics like personal information, social networking, downloading, cyberbullying, gaming, digital footprints, online reputation, and many more.

Sessions were interactive and organised in a way that suited the needs of pupils.

We have made a research among parents, and parents of the following classes were interested to participate in this initiative :PL2, PL4a, PL4b, PL5a and PL5b. They, together with the teachers of the mentioned classes, are deeply convinced that this workshops are necessary and of great value for children.

Workshops have been organised in Polish, as not all of the pupils are fluent in foreign languages and it was important that they understand the trainers well.

We have received financial contribution of 300 EUR from APEEE to support this important initiative. Parents of the above mentioned participating classes have agreed to cover the remaining part of expenses. APEEE contribution covered partly the invoices from experts (we had two collective invoices).

I have collected afterwards opinions from teachers who were present at the workshops and they all underlined that they were very informative and well prepared, adapted to the age groups. We received also positive feedback from parents and pupils. Kids were actively participating in the workshops, asked questions and shared what they already knew about discussed subjects.

In addition, there was a request from the teachers that it might be interesting (if we would like to continue) to do more hands-on exercises. This would be a very good idea if all kids would have access to the computers during this kind of trainings.

To sum up, this kind of activities is very important nowadays as pupils live in the digital world which changes quickly and they need to be ready to operate there safely.