Wales, Wellbeing and Digital Competence

Conference or Workshop Item

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Our Digital World

We live in an increasingly connected world and technology is becoming ever-present and all-encompassing. Whilst there is consensus on childhood wellbeing's importance, in relation to wellbeing and technology there is conflicting evidence about its effect (OECD, 2018).

Advantages and Disadvantages to Digital Media Use

- **Context:** where, when and how digital media are accessed
- **Content:** what is being watched or used
- **Connections:** whether and how relationships are facilitated or impeded

(Blum-Ross and Livingstone, 2016)

What about Wales?

- The world’s first country to enshrine the UNCRC in domestic law (2011).
- The ‘Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015’ places responsibility on public bodies to promote/contribute to the wellbeing of current and future populations of Wales.
- **Curriculum reform** (Curriculum for Wales) becomes statutory in 2022. Requirements emphasise the importance of preparing today’s learners with appropriate digital skills for the future, whilst ensuring health and wellbeing.

What we Know:

Wales’ **Digital Competency Framework** aims to support learners’ understanding of how digital media can affect wellbeing

- ‘Citizenship’ strand: skills on understanding positive/negative influences of digital media and appropriate online behaviour
- ‘Interacting and Collaborating’ strand: skills to develop appropriate use of communication, understanding advantages and disadvantages.

What we want to find out:

What are familial ideas about the effect of digital media on childhood wellbeing in Wales?
- Do perceptions about the impact of digital media lead to differences in the way children interact with it?
- How do families support childhood wellbeing in our digital world?

References:
OECD (2018) **Children & Young People’s Mental Health in the Digital Age: Shaping the Future.** Paris: OECD.