**Social Media - Cyberbullying**

**By Elena (Year 10)**

Social media is used by thousands of people across the world. The majority of people that use it are under 30, and 42% are adults. Facebook is the most used with over 750 million active users, followed by Snapchat with over 100 million daily users and Instagram with 500 million monthly active users. People have different views on social media; some suggest that it is bad for the children, whereas others suggest that it could improve children’s education.

Social media could have a negative effects on young people’s lives. They could become dependent to social media and forget how to live without it. This would have a huge impact on their life as they grow older. Health issues have commonly involved with social media such as depression and anxiety. People stay awake to watch the latest video come out, or to see a new song be released on Facebook. This could affect school/work or capability to concentrate. Another problem with social media is that many scams and hackers are about and they are increasing rapidly.  Children who use social media are getting younger. The younger the child is the more likely they are to become a victim of their account being hacked on any social media site. This is because they are unable to know how to keep their account so they are unable to identify any viruses.

Although there are many negative sides to social media, there are many positives too. Sites such as Facebook and Snapchat allow you to keep in contact with friends that you may not see. It could also allow you to make new friends. This is a positive impact on young people because it could boost their confidence to talk to people that have the same interests as them, or people that they would never expect to talk to. Social media such as twitter is a good site to keep up with the latest gossip. Nearly 50% of all twitter users have never sent a tweet because they just use it to keep up with celebrity gossip. There are 974 million existing twitter accounts. Twitter also has 370 million monthly active users.

However, over half of teenagers have been bullied online. A reason for this is because many teenagers don’t think to put their accounts on private. If you do choose to put your account on private. This will let you choose who adds you and who sees your private information. Bullying is one of the main issues that affects teens and it is becoming more common. If you are being bullied then you should block the person and tell a responsible adult.

On the other hand, social media sites such as Facebook, YouTube and Instagram could prove education. Facebook and Instagram often post top tips and fun facts which could boost your knowledge. YouTube posts videos about any subject that you need to know about explaining in more detail.

Our opinion on social media is that it can be very interesting to have but before signing up for any site you should read the terms and conditions. Most social media sites have a minimum age, so I think that you should stick to it because it is there for a reason. Finally, you should make sure that any account that you make it private so only your friends can see what you post.