

Reference: John Parsons S2E—internet safety programme

It is a pleasure to write this recommendation for John. I worked with John in my role as Acting Principal at Salisbury School. Salisbury School is a residential school for 80 girls with high learning needs from all over New Zealand. I had heard about John through very positive reviews from Waimea College and was very keen to use his skills to provide the students with a hands on approach to internet safety and citizenship and extend the understanding of the teaching teams.

John is passionate about internet safety for students and went to great lengths to ensure that his 4 x 1 hour sessions were pitched at the optimum levels for the receptive language understanding of the students.

His sessions were energetic, interactive, practical, relevant and blunt. He was very careful to avoid scaremongering and showed a high level of understanding of how important the internet has become to our teenagers.

John actively sought feedback from the teaching teams involved with the classes specifically around how he could improve his presentation techniques, as special education environments were new to him.

He included a well presented 4 page hand out at the end for the students to take home to their parents to 'test and teach' them as he advocated the safety message to be taken on by families and whanau.

I strongly believe this programme should be incorporated as a National Curriculum unit under Health or the ICT technology areas. It is vital to the safety of our students who, I am aware, are spending a great deal of time on line with minimal supervision.

I would be very happy to answer any queries about this programme.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Kennedy, M.Ed, B.Sc. PGCE