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To whom it may concern

I am writing the following account in support of the education John Parsons and his team have developed. John has delivered this module (Protecting and Valuing Identity) within Parklands School Motueka.

The education is values based and is best described as Internet Health and Safety Education. John's delivery forms part of the professional development that I am undergoing.

He has been running the programme in my class for the last 5 weeks, not only teaching the kids, but also 'upskilling' me in the programme so I can deliver it myself to other classes in our school.

It has been fantastic. John points out to the students that they are kids at a time when we have all this technology, but as it is new to parents and teachers, it isn't something that we have thought about seriously in regards to the technologies implications on peoples lives – positive or negative.

He says that parents wouldn't let their children cross the road without teaching them to be safe, it should be the same with cell phones, computers and social networks etc.

He teaches the students how to use the technology and be smart and safe at the same time – part of the programme is about evaluating what you are posting (photos and status) and how you can become a victim if you aren't safe when doing these things.

He has developed a chat room which uses "roleplay, scenario based delivery" which he gets the students to get chatting on (in a safe and secure environment) and then he records what is said and plays it back to them – pointing out where they went wrong and how what they said could have negative implications on their lives and that of their families and of course, if there are victims involved, how it can affect them. It's a real eye opener for the kids.

He is very passionate about this subject, which comes across when he is delivering the programme.

He is spending some time with me in the holidays to make sure I am confident to deliver the programme by myself next term.

Kindest regards

Andrea Smith

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