

Information Card for:

Using Facebook, WhatsApp and MSN to create an online classroom



Context:

Facebook is an online social networking service. Since 2006, anyone who is at least 13 years old is allowed to become a registered user of the website, though this age requirement may be higher depending on applicable local laws.

After registering to use the site, users can create a user profile, add other users as "friends", exchange messages, post status updates and photos, share videos and receive notifications when others update their profiles.

Additionally, users may join common-interest user groups, organized by workplace, school or college, or other characteristics, and categorize their friends into lists such as "People from Work" or "Close Friends". Facebook had over 1.18 billion monthly active users as of June 2015. Due to the large volume of personal data users submit to the service, Facebook has come under scrutiny for their privacy policy.

Facebook is often used directly by students to create online groups that simulate the classroom. This can be useful, especially when a classmate is ill to keep them up to date with the current activities, and not only in terms of school work.

Social networks enable teachers to keep in contact with students with medical needs, and some teachers have started to use Facebook, often supported by MSN or Skype to allow a real-time connection.

What do teachers need to carry out this activity?

Facebook and the other social networking services are very simple to use. The pupils themselves are often the motivators for the teachers to use it. It can be used like a diary, on a daily basis. Essentially, what is needed is as follows:

1. Computers with webcams in the schools and in pupil's homes
(NB. Some school filter/security systems block social networking programs to ensure the safety of their pupils whilst they are in school. In this case, teachers could request special permission from IT managers).
2. Good internet/WIFI connections
3. Willing teachers and pupils to use their private accounts (or to set up alternative accounts and/or groups for the purposes of the training action)
4. Lesson plans adapted to using this type of software

Homepages:

<https://www.facebook.com/>

<http://www.msn.com/>

<https://www.whatsapp.com/>

Teachers may choose to share films they make during this project on the LeHo YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMD5zSd3x4VqoBwDUVK7n4w>

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Evaluation of the activity

Evaluation of how this activity worked for you in the field (Fieldwork Experience) is via a short questionnaire on Survey Monkey.

Questionnaires are available in English, Italian, Spanish, Catalan, German and Arabic as follows:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeHoFieldwork>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeHoItalian>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeHoSpanish>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeHoCatalan>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeHoGerman>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeHoArabic>

Please select your language of choice and leave your feedback. Many thanks.



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