

Adults behaving badly

Frank Furedi

It was recently reported that young people in Britain consider having an ASBO – an anti-social behaviour order – to be ‘a badge of honour’. These arbitrary rulings against youths are now seen as ‘glamorous must-haves’, evidence that you are a rebel standing outside of conformist adult society. How did such a situation arise?

Teenage behaviour has always been a cause of adult concerns. But something important has changed in the way adult society perceives teenagers today. For better or worse, large numbers of British adults have become 10 the world of young people. Many adults, especially the elderly, feel anxious, even scared, when they encounter groups of youths in the streets. That is why The Institute of Public Policy Research’s – or IPPR’s – warning about the scourge of teenage anti-social behaviour has had such resonance in British society.

The Institute of Public Policy Research recently published a report titled *Freedom’s Orphans: Raising Youth in a Changing World*. It raises important issues, but its interpretation of the problem is wrong and its policy-orientation misguided. Pointing the finger at the bad behaviour of teenagers overlooks the fundamental issue. The problem is the 11 of adults to take responsibility for guiding and socialising children. Men and women rarely interact with children other than their own, often feeling too awkward to intervene when children misbehave and too confused to give support to those who are in trouble. A long time before they become teenagers, children sense and know that they face no sanctions from any adult other than their parents.

A constant display of adult responsibility for children is a precondition if youngsters are going to be properly socialised. But today, we actively 12 and are suspicious of all forms of adult solidarity. Apparently only the parent and the professional have the authority to deal with kids. With the breakdown of inter-generational relationships, children rarely have constructive encounters with grown-ups – and thus the real damage is done when children are as young as seven or eight. The breakdown of adult solidarity leads to a situation where young people’s behaviour is 13 by the intervention of responsible grown-ups.

The IPPR is concerned that youngsters learn too much from one another instead of from adults. 14, it’s perfectly normal and desirable for teenagers to share experiences and devise a common culture. They are entitled to kick against the adult world; and so long as grown-ups are prepared to interact with them, such generational tensions can be creative and dynamic. 15 who actively intervene help to create a world where youths themselves will regard anti-social behaviour as unacceptable.

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Tekst 4 Adults behaving badly

Kies bij iedere open plek in de tekst het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.

1p 10

- A estranged from
- B familiar with
- C fascinated by
- D rejected by

1p 11

- A determination
- B reluctance
- C silliness
- D tendency

1p 12

- A discourage
- B forbid
- C promote

1p 13

- A excused
- B not checked
- C not explained
- D provoked

1p 14

- A Consequently
- B In addition
- C In fact
- D Similarly

1p 15

- A Adults
- B Parents
- C Teenagers

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.