

As part of Safety Internet Day, we decided to find out from our pupils the effect the internet has in their young lives, if any.

The results have been split into 2 age groups, starting with the older half of the school.

Key stage 2 (P5-7)

Almost 100% use the internet outside school

USES 86% watch utube alone

Other reasons for using the internet – minecraft, games, looking at fashion, facetime, netflix, research (homework), iplayer, whatsapp, xbox/PS games, messages, instagram, download books for kindle, itunes, google images, facebook, imessage, spotify, snapchat, shopping websites

DEVICES 73% use an ipad

58% use a phone

46% use xbox

Other devices – ipods, laptops, PC, tablets, imac, PS, kindle

FREQUENCY 58% use it everyday, plus another 15% 5 or 6 days a week

17% use it just at weekends

SUPERVISION 29% always supervised, 51% sometimes, 19% never (Some of the oldest pupils commented on how their parents trusted them to be responsible and therefore did not need to be supervised).

CONSENT 59% said their parents always knew they were using the internet with many asking for permission first, also some have devices linked up to parents' phones/emails or need a parent's password first

10% said parents never knew when they were using the internet

SEEING SOMETHING BAD 56% would possibly tell a parent if they saw something 'bad' but not always as they may choose a different option

51% would x out or ignore it or change the website/game, some of these would tell a parent too but many wouldn't, especially as they get older

7% would report it or block it themselves

If they were to tell something to an adult, most would choose mum or dad, but some would also tell an older sibling, grandparent, aunt or cousin instead

WHERE? 32% use the internet specifically in their own bedroom and a further 51% may use it anywhere in the house, that leaves a small percentage who will only ever use it in a 'public' area of the house

ESAFETY When asked if parents have ever discussed esafety with them, 64% said yes but for many it was only about one particular aspect eg rude messages, viruses, following people on instagram, pop ups on the screen

BAD EXPERIENCES Pupils were asked if they ever had any negative experiences – 31% said they never had 19% mentioned seeing/hearing bad language, 8% saw rude/scary images and other answers included rude videos, witnessing 'rage', pop ups, a stranger contacting them in a game, seeing 'inappropriate' things and 7% of the older pupils had experienced being blocked by someone else and found this a negative experience

While these percentages appear low, I'm not sure if this is a true reflection of what our children experience or simply shows how children's idea of 'negative' is becoming more blurred as they become more exposed to it.

It may be worthwhile to discuss with your child what they do see as being negative or not.

Foundation/Key stage 1

3% do not use the internet outside school

USES Internet uses include games, websites eg cbeebies, utube, minecraft, Netflix, spotify, sending messages, searching for information, facetime, google images

A small percentage said they played 18+ games (war games)

DEVICES iPads and use of parents' phones are the most popular devices

FREQUENCY 44% are on the internet everyday and a further 14% almost everyday

22% are using the internet once or twice a week

SUPERVISION 27% were supervised, 44% sometimes supervised, 29% said never

CONSENT 59% of parents always know when the internet is being used, 30% know sometimes, 11% never know (comments included using the internet under the bedclothes!)

SEEING SOMETHING BAD While many pupils said they would tell an adult if they saw something bad, this is not always the case. Other responses were – turn it off, keep watching it, come out of it, change it over, send a rude message back

BAD EXPERIENCES Negative experiences were few and consisted mainly of bad words and scary images (including a scary minecraft character!).

Foundation pupils also were shocked when 'mummy's iPad stopped working' and 'mum's phone got smashed'!!



Schools are now being encouraged to take on more responsibility as to what happens outside our grounds regarding pupils' use of the internet. Therefore –

- Do discuss with your child all of the dangers, as appropriate to their age, and find out your child's point of view on such issues
- Supervise your child. If you start this from P1, your child may be more accepting of this as they get older
- If the internet is used in a more 'public' place in the house it will make it easier to check on what your child is doing and you are more likely to see or hear something inappropriate yourself, especially if your child doesn't see the dangers of such things themselves
- Set up controls, passwords, links to your phone/email on devices and make your child aware of these
- Don't be cross if your child discovers something they shouldn't – it's not their fault what is on the internet & they are less likely to come to you the next time if you tell them off
- Use the internet together – even if it means watching children's videos/websites or playing their games!
- Keep talking to your child about online usage – What are they doing online? Who are they talking to? Is there anything that has annoyed/upset them? What would they do if they did see something they didn't like?
- One way to get a discussion going is when an esafety issue comes up on the news eg cyberbullying, this is an ideal time to talk to your child about what they would do if they were the victim, but likewise dicuss the wrongs of becoming involved in cyberbullying themselves

If you have any concerns or need more advice, please contact the school for help.