



Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board Consultation with young people about Online Safety

1 What is Online Safety?

1.1 *Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, playing online games or using mobile phones. Children and young people may experience cyberbullying, grooming, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or emotional abuse.*

Children can be at risk of online abuse from people they know, as well as from strangers. Online abuse may be part of abuse that is taking place in the real world (for example bullying or grooming). Or it may be that the abuse only happens online (for example persuading children to take part in sexual activity online).

Children can feel like there is no escape from online abuse – abusers can contact them at any time of the day or night, the abuse can come into safe places like their bedrooms, and images and videos can be stored and shared with other people. – NSPCC

1.2 According to research one in five 8 to 11 year olds and seven in ten 12 to 15 year olds has a social media profile¹ and around 1 in 7 young people have taken a semi-naked/naked picture of themselves. Over half went on to share the picture with someone else.²



2 Methodology

2.1 The Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board recognised that it needed to understand the views of Online Safety with children and young people in Peterborough and following the successes of the Child Sexual Exploitation consultation in 2014 and the Domestic Abuse and Healthy Relationship survey in 2015 it decided to carry out another survey which was circulated to all schools in Peterborough.

¹ Ofcom (2015) [Children and parents: media use and attitudes report \(PDF\)](#).

² Martellozzo, et al (2016) [I wasn't sure it was normal to watch it](#).

2.2 The first survey was aimed at school years 3 – 5 and a second survey aimed at school years 6 upwards. Both surveys were identical with the exception of years 6 upwards included questions around the sharing of Inappropriate Images of Children (IIOC), also known as ‘Sexting’

2.3 The surveys were circulated to schools via Gaynor Mansell, Education Safeguarding Lead on the 1st November with a completion date of 30th November. Schools were given discretion over how to promote the surveys and the results reflect this.

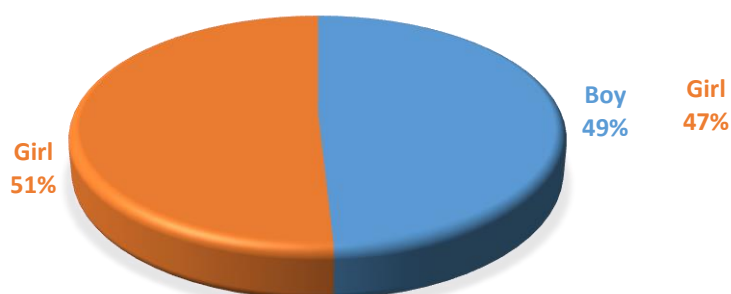
3 Responses

3.1 In total, there were over 1,100 responses from 31 schools, (25 primary schools and 6 secondary schools) These amounted to 272 responses from schools years 3 – 5 and 835 responses from years 6+.

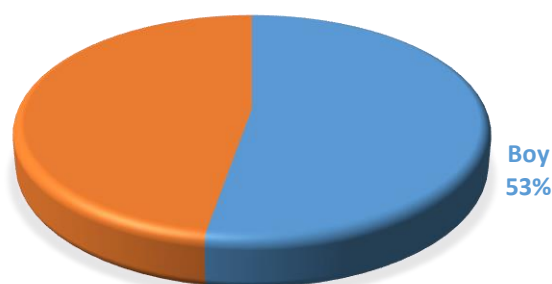
3.2 To ensure that young people were honest in their responses the questionnaires were completed anonymously but they were asked to indicate their gender, age and what year group they were in.

3.3 The two graphs below shows there was an almost even split of responses between Girls and Boys.

YEARS 3-5: GENDER

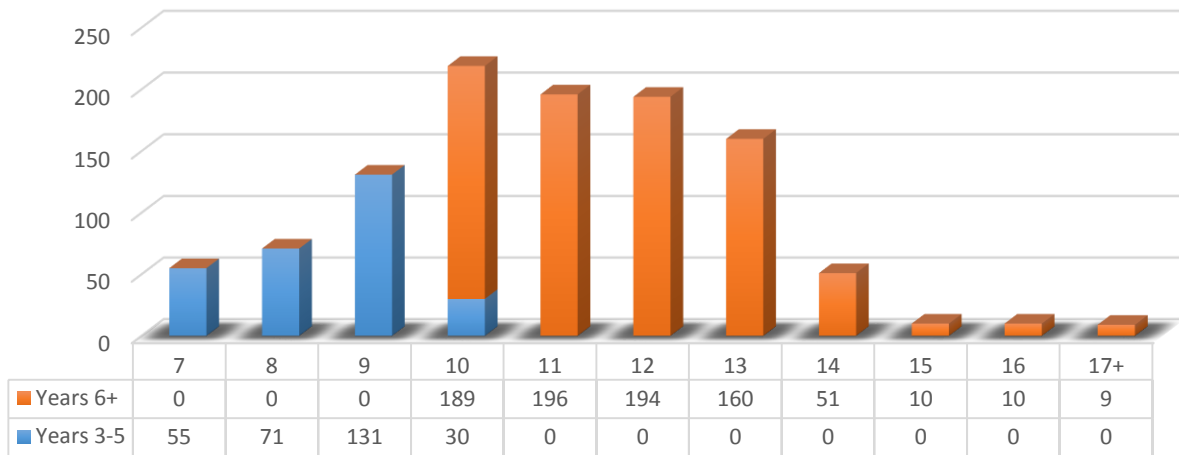


YEARS 6+: GENDER

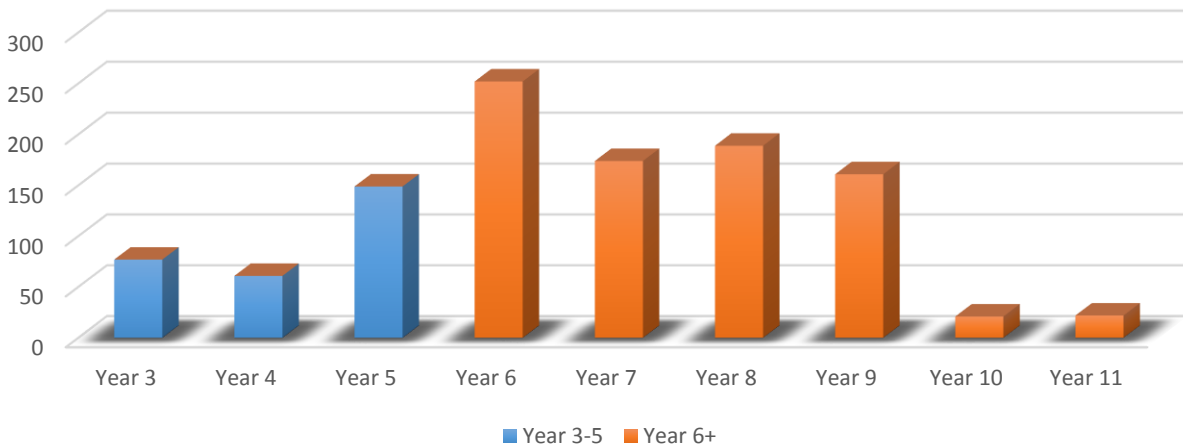


3.4 There was a good selection of responses across the different age groups with the most coming from Year 6 (247)

Age of Respondants



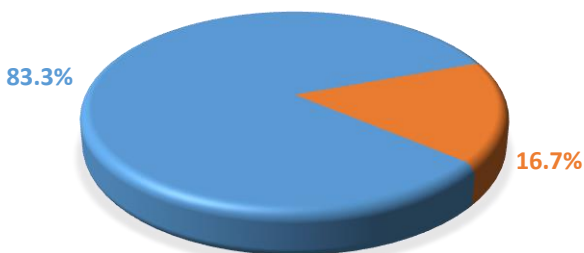
School Year groups



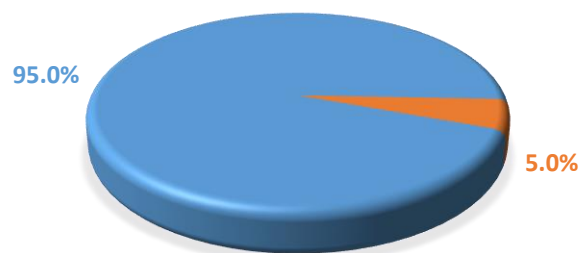
4 Internet Use

4.1 83% of the Year 3 – 5 Survey and 95% of the Year 6+ survey said they had their own device whilst the remainder shared devices with other family members.

YEAR 3-5



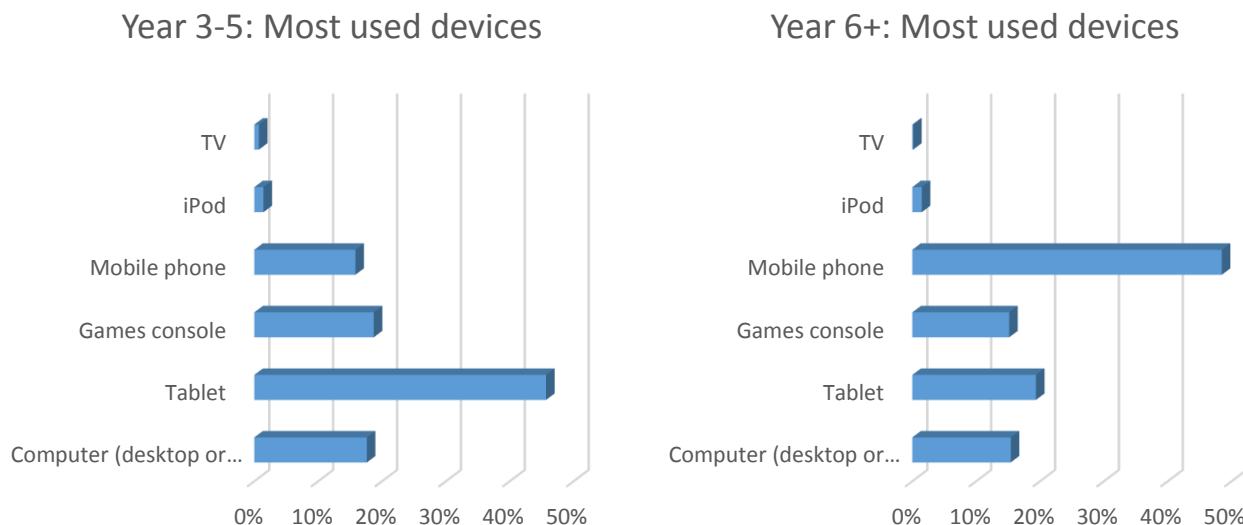
YEAR 6+



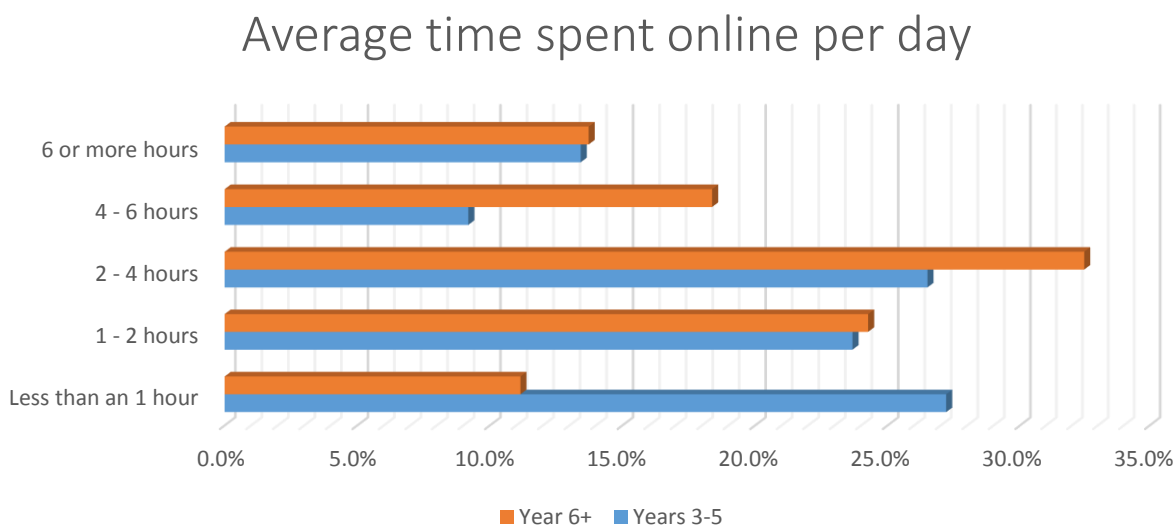
■ Yes ■ No, I share with other people in my family

■ Yes ■ No, I share with other people in my family

4.2 When questioned which device was used most often to access the internet 46% of year 3-5's uses Tablets (including iPads and Kindles) and 19% uses Games Consoles (PlayStation, Xbox etc.) to access the internet whilst 49% of Years 6+ uses Smartphones followed by 19% using Tablets.

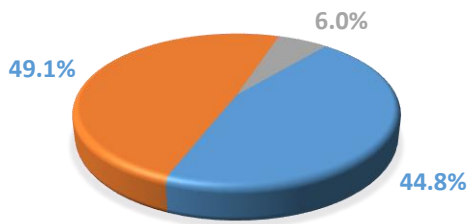


4.3 When questioned how much time on average per day was spent online 50% of Years 3-5 and 57% of Years 6+ said they spent between 1 and 4 hours per day online. 22% of Years 3-5 and 32% of Years 6+ said they spent more than 6 hours per day online.



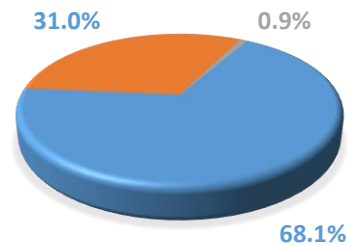
4.4 45% of Years 3-5 and 68% of years 6+ accesses the internet from their bedrooms with 49% of Years 3-5 and 31% of Years 6+ accesses the internet from another room in the house. This raises questions regarding the amount of parental supervision given to young people whilst online. Despite the higher percentage of Years 3-5 (6%) than Years 6+ (0.9%) accessing the internet away from the home environment, in actual number of responses this equates to a difference of 10 responses.

YEAR 3-5: WHERE ACCESS ONLINE



- My Bedroom
- Family room (for example, living room, kitchen)
- Away from home

YEAR 6+: WHERE ACCESS ONLINE



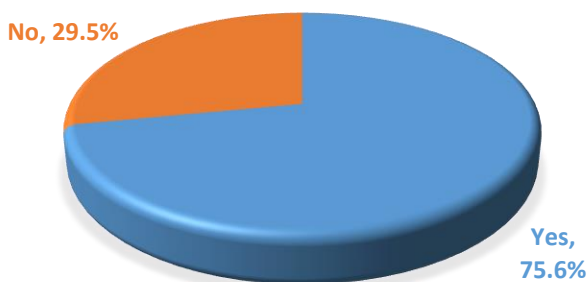
- My Bedroom
- Family room (for example, living room, kitchen)
- Away from home

4.5 When questioned what children and young people did whilst online, a majority said play games, school/homework, watch videos, listen to music and access Social Networking sites.

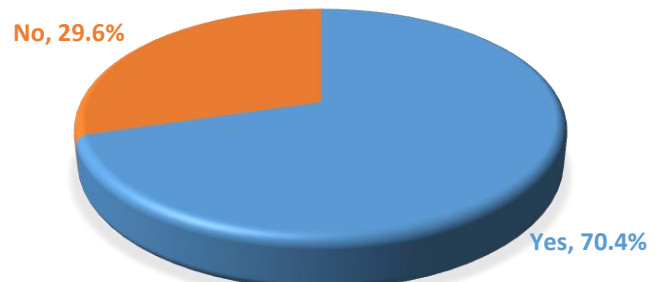
5 Social Networking and Online Gaming

5.1 75% of young people in years 3-5 and 70% of young people in Years 6+ who responded said that they play games online.

YEAR 3-5: DO YOU PLAY GAMES ONLINE?

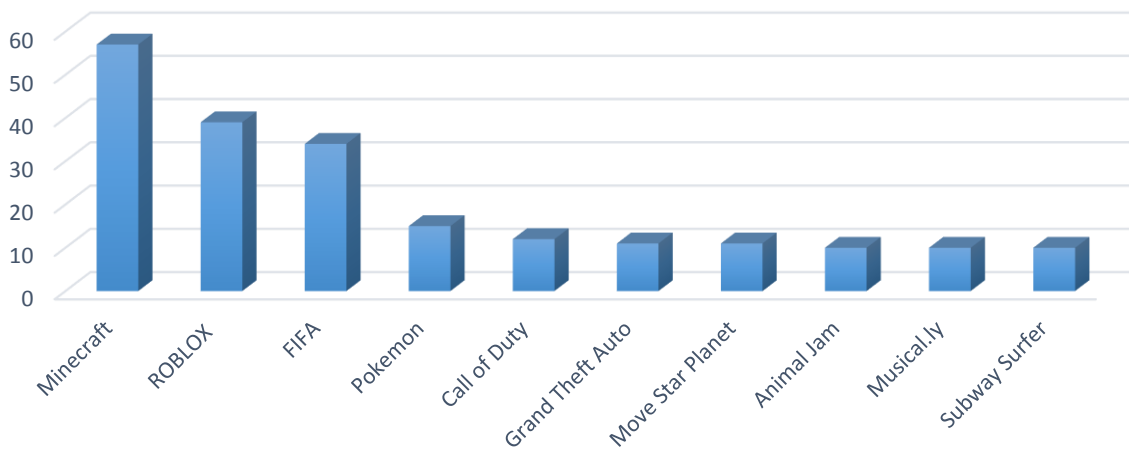


YEAR 6+: DO YOU PLAY GAMES ONLINE?

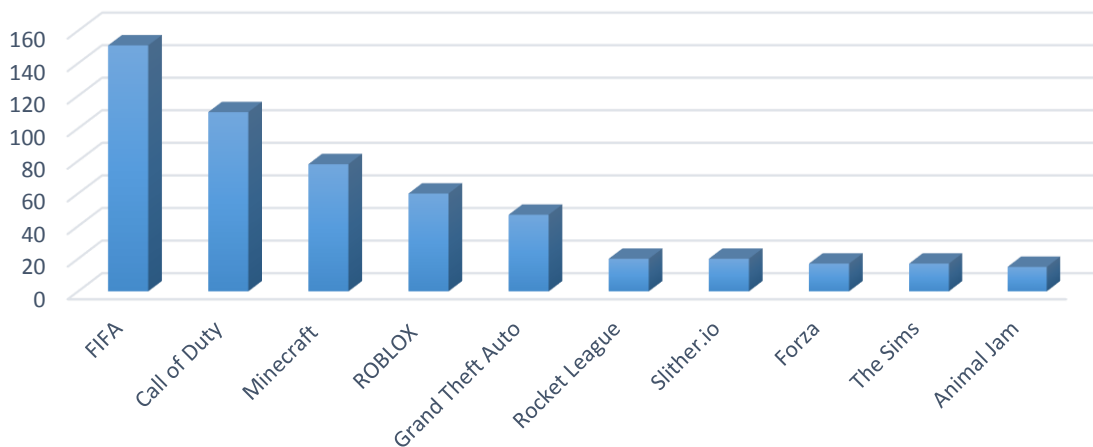


5.2 Young people who played games online were asked to name their 2 favourite games. From over 300 different games named, the majority of the games played by both Years 3-5 and Years 6+ included Minecraft, ROBLOX, FIFA, Pokémon, Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto. The two charts below show the top ten games from both surveys. Note: Games with sequels were categorised under the same title.

Years 3-5: Popular games played online

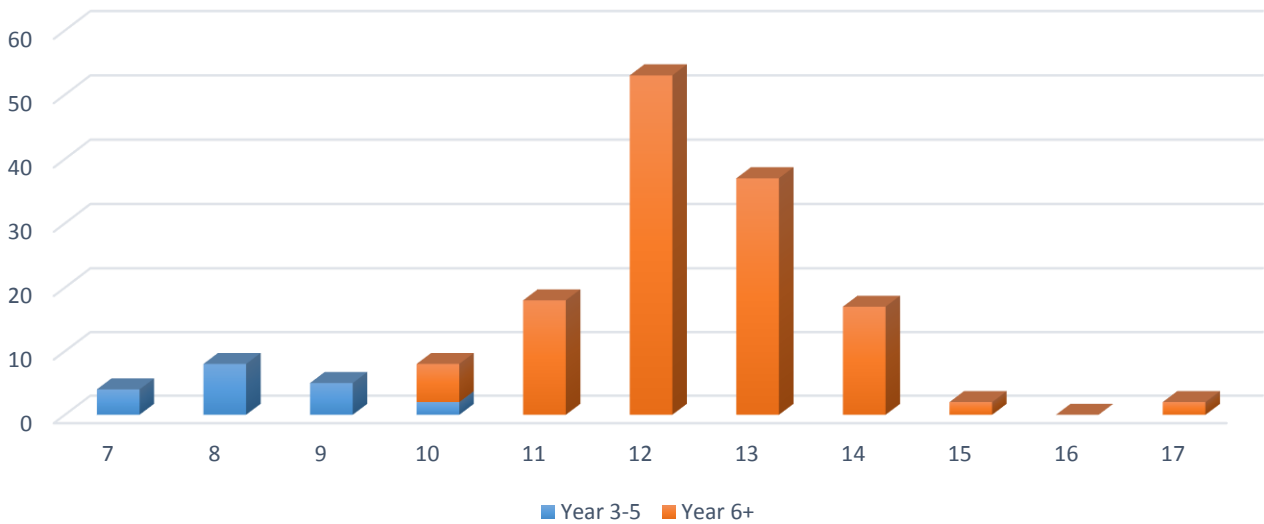


Years 6+: Popular games played online



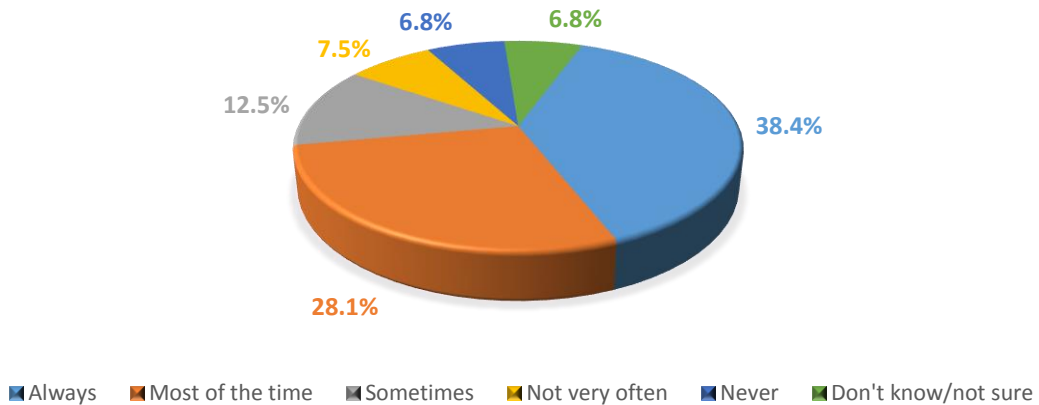
5.3 Similar to movies and videos, computer games are clearly labelled with a Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) age rating based on the content they contain. This is to provide guidance to consumers (particularly parents) to help them decide whether or not a game is suitable for their child's age. The rating on a game confirms that it is suitable for players over a certain age. Accordingly, a PEGI 7 game is suitable for those aged seven and above and a PEGI 18 game is only suitable for adults aged eighteen and above. The PEGI rating considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty.

5.4 Out of the 6 popular games mentioned ROBLOX (a website containing user created games) and Pokémon are both Websites and Apps which do not have an age rating. FIFA and Minecraft have been given a PEGI rating of 3 and 7 respectively which would be suitable for all ages who undertook the Survey. However both Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto have been given a PEGI rating of 18. The following chart gives an age breakdown of those who said they play either Call of Duty or Grand Theft Auto. It is concerning that despite the games being given an age rating of 18 (suitable for adults only) there were children as young as 7 playing these games online.

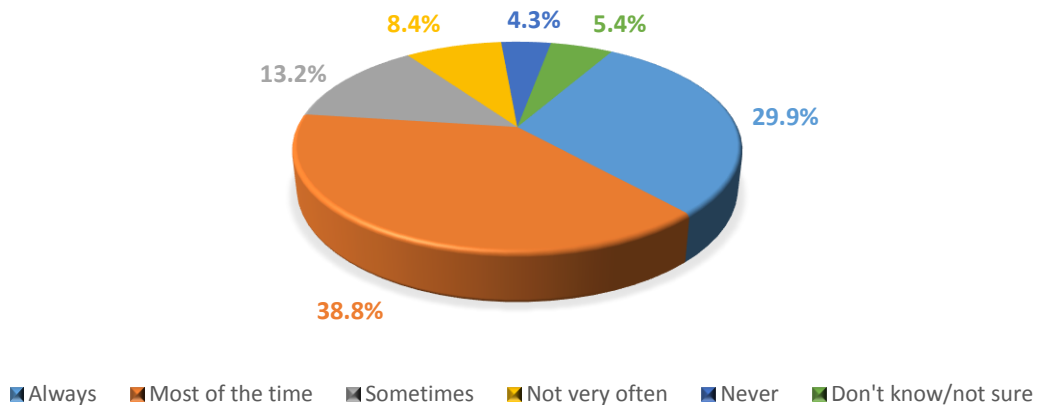


5.5 When questioned whether parents knew what children and young people were doing online 66% of Years 3-5 and 69% of Years 6+ responded either “Always” or “Most of the time”.

YEAR 3-5: DO YOUR PARENTS KNOW WHAT YOU DO ONLINE?

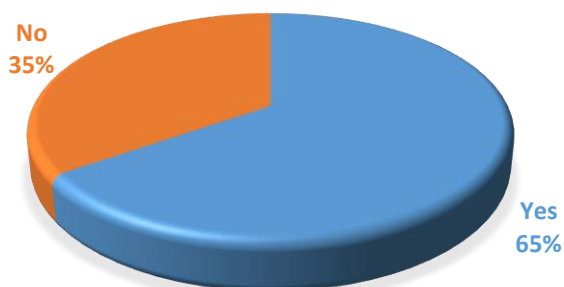


YEAR 6+: DO YOUR PARENTS KNOW WHAT YOU DO ONLINE?

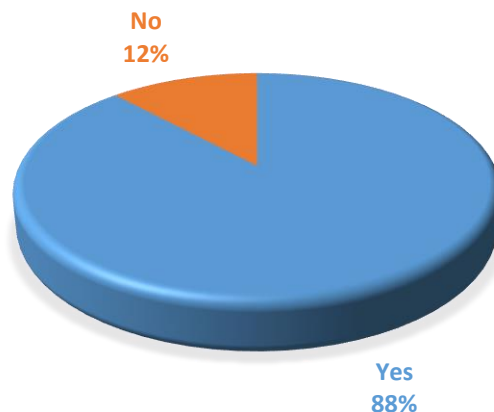


5.6 65% of Years 3 – 5 and 88% of years 6+ responded that they use Social Networking Sites and Apps

YEAR 3-5: DO YOU USE SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES?



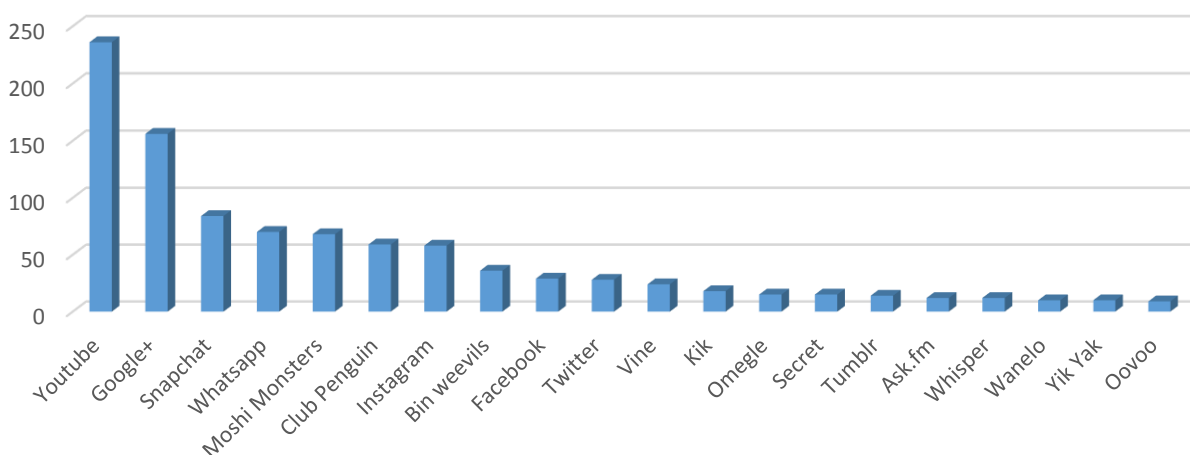
YEAR 6+: DO YOU USE SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES



5.7 The following question asked which Social Networking Sites the Children and Young People used. The list of options provided were based on the NSPCC’s Net-Aware but also included an “Any Other” text box.

5.8 In the Years 3 – 5 responses the most popular sites listed were YouTube (82%), Google+ (54%), and Snapchat (29%) WhatsApp (24%) and Moshi Monsters (24%).

Year 3-5: Which Social Networking Sites do you use?

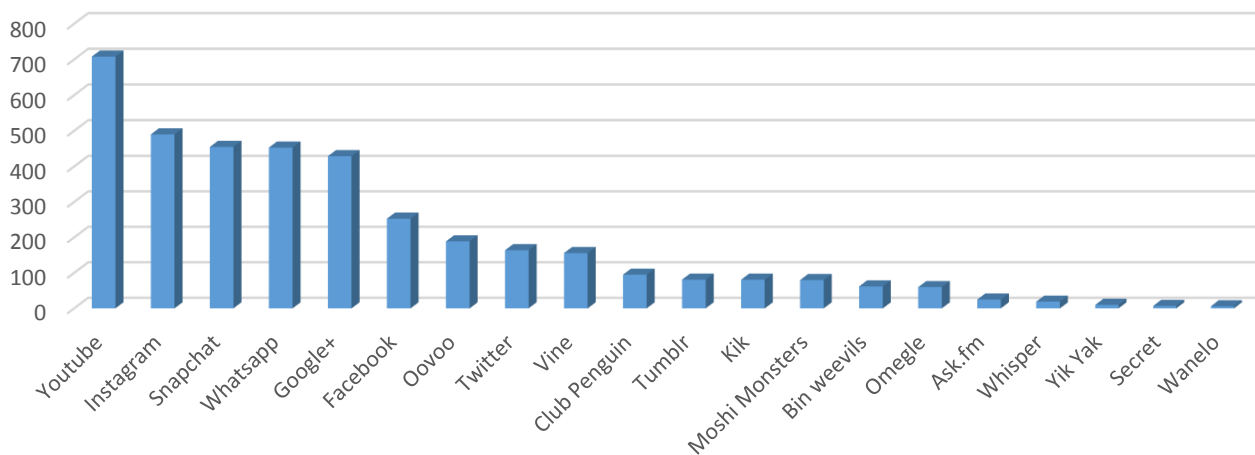


5.9 It is important to be reminded that the ages of the Years 3 – 5 are between 7 and 10 years old and the minimum recommended age for the popular social networking sites was 13, with WhatsApp having a minimum age of 16.³

³ O2 NSPCC Netaware <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

5.10 In the Years 6+ survey results, the most popular networking sites included YouTube (86%), Instagram (60%), Snapchat (56%), and WhatsApp (55%).

Year 6+: Which Social Networking Sites do you use?



5.11 Other networking sites used by children and young people across both surveys included KiK⁴, Oovoo⁵ and Omegle⁶. These are video chat sites which has a default privacy setting as ‘Public’ and allows users to communicate with strangers anonymously.

“People record themselves doing inappropriate things”

Comment from Boy regarding Omegle – NSPCC Netaware

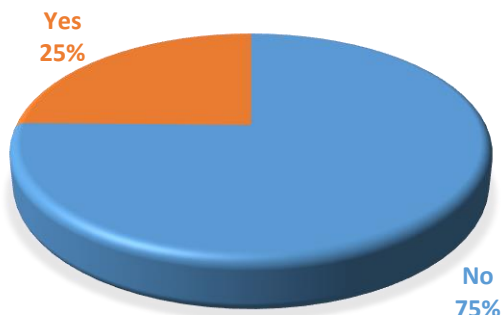
⁴ Kik is an instant messaging app. It lets you create your own username and message others without using your mobile number. You can share photos, organise events, share games, news and anything of interest to you from the internet.

⁵ OoVoo is a video chat app. It lets you make video calls, voice calls and send texts to friends and family. You can also start a group video chat with up to 12 people. The default privacy settings are set to **public**, so you can talk to people you don't know, but they can be changed so that you can just talk to your friends.

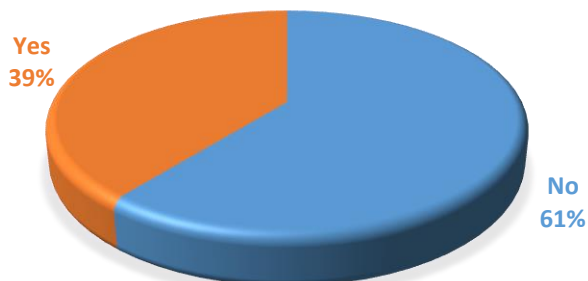
⁶ Omegle is a social networking site that randomly connects you to another person who's on the site. It lets you talk to them in a one-to-one audio or video conversation. You can both appear as anonymous, unless you decide to share your personal information.

5.12 When asked whether they have “made friends” with people online that they did not know 25% of Years 3-5 and 39% of Years 6+ said Yes.

YEAR 3-5: HAVE YOU EVER MADE FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE ONLINE YOU DID NOT KNOW

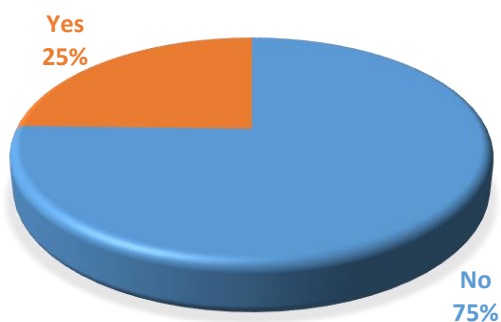


YEAR 6+: HAVE YOU EVER MADE FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE ONLINE YOU DID NOT KNOW

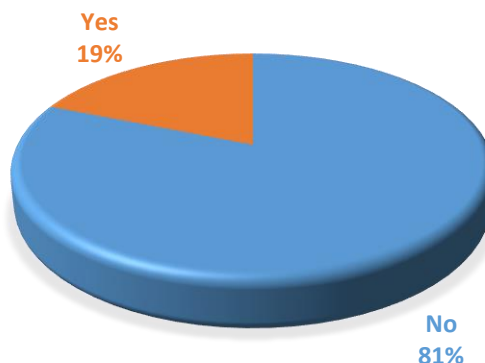


5.13 When questioned whether they have met in real life someone they only knew online 19% of Years 3-5 and 25% of Years 6+ said yes.

YEAR 6+: HAVE YOU EVER MET SOMEONE IN REAL LIFE WHO YOU ONLY KNEW ONLINE?

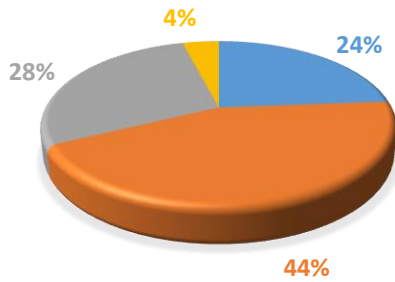


YEAR 3-5: HAVE YOU EVER MET SOMEONE IN REAL LIFE WHO YOU ONLY KNEW ONLINE?



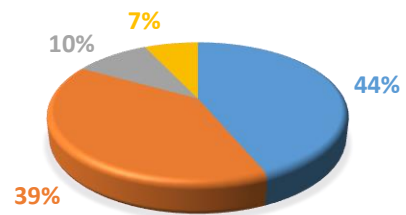
5.14 From those who had met someone in real life they only knew online 7% of Years 3-5 and 4% of Years 6+ said they had met an adult they did not know before. 83% of Years 3-5 and 68% of Years 6+ met someone from their school or a family member.

YEAR 6+: IF YES, WHO DID YOU MEET?



- A family member
- Another pupil from my school
- A boy or girl I didn't know before
- An adult I didn't know before

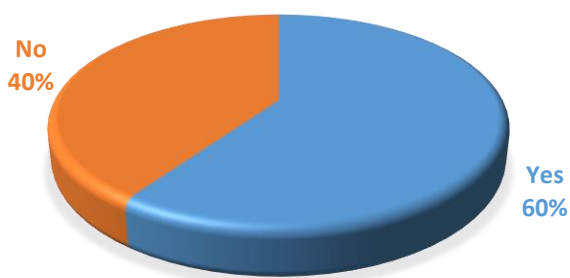
YEAR 3-5: IF YES, WHO DID YOU MEET?



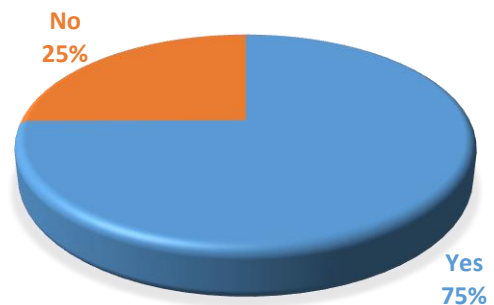
- A family member
- Another pupil from my school
- A boy or girl I didn't know before
- An adult I didn't know before

5.15 Worryingly 40% of Years 3-5 and 25% of Years 6+ did not tell anyone they were meeting with someone they had met online. This raises the need to highlight to children and young people that not everyone online is who they may appear to be. Of those who did tell someone, 58% of Years 3-5 and 80% of Years 6+ told their parents or other family members. Additional responses included “I didn't need to, because they were in my class.”, “They were invited to the same birthday party that I was.” Or “I was meeting my friend's friend”

YEAR 3-5: DID YOU TELL ANYONE YOU WERE MEETING THEM?

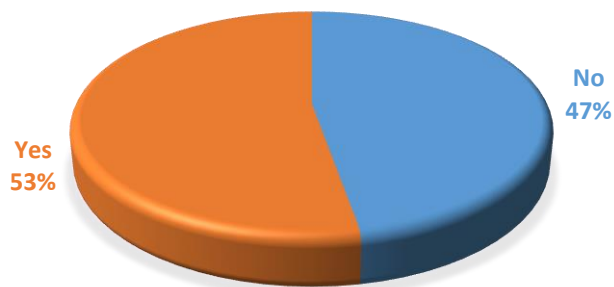


YEAR 6+: DID YOU TELL ANYONE YOU WERE MEETING THEM?

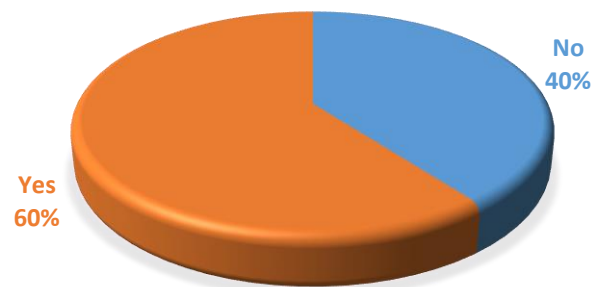


5.16 Children and young people were also questioned whether if they met in real life someone they only knew online whether they had taken anyone with them. Only 53% of Years 3-5 and 60% of Years 6+ had taken someone with them however consideration would need to be made for those who did not take someone as previous questions had identified a high number of children and young people met with another pupil from their school

YEAR 3-5: DID YOU TAKE ANYONE WITH YOU?



YEAR 6+: DID YOU TAKE ANYONE WITH YOU?



6 Cyberbullying

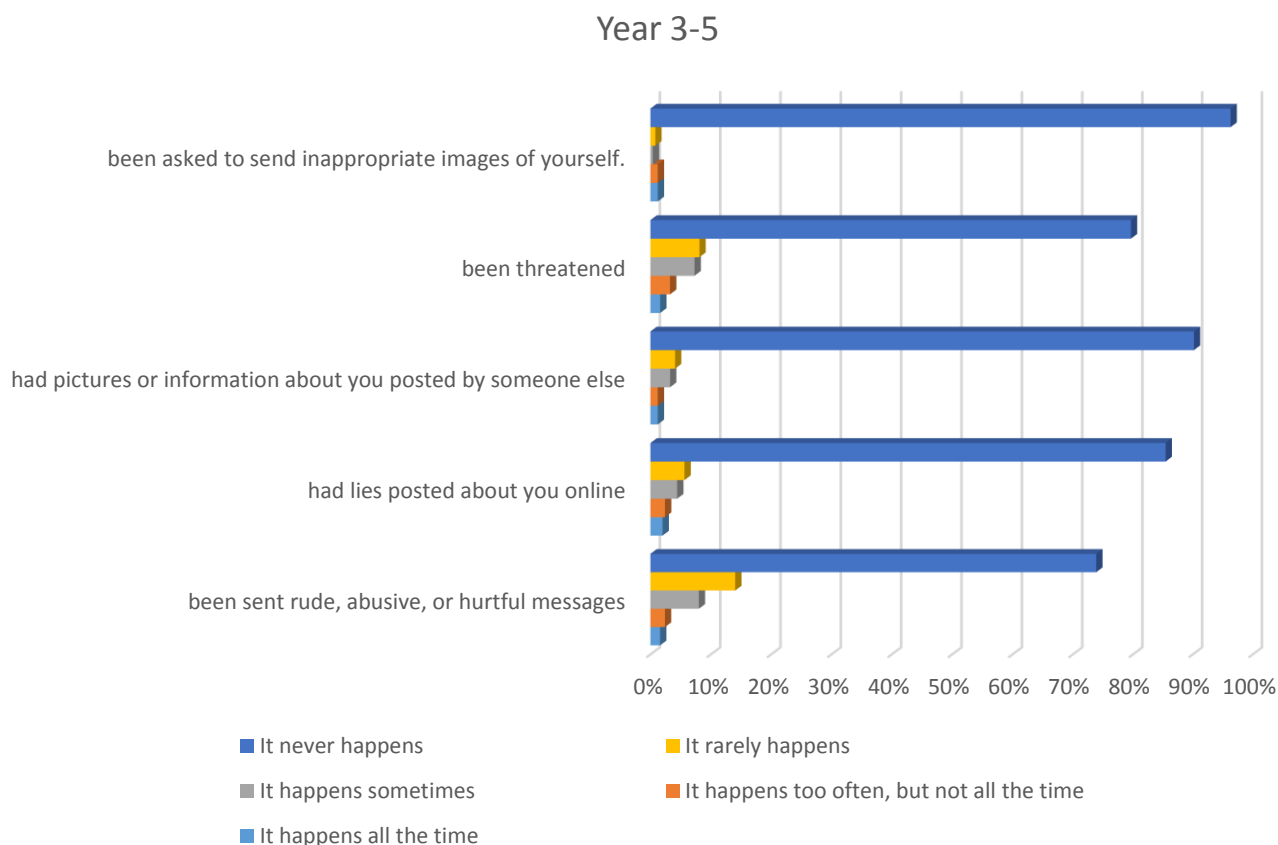
6.1 Cyberbullying is an increasingly common form of bullying behaviour which happens on social networks, games and mobile phones. Cyberbullying can include spreading rumours about someone, or posting nasty or embarrassing messages, images or videos.

6.2 Examples of Cyberbullying includes:

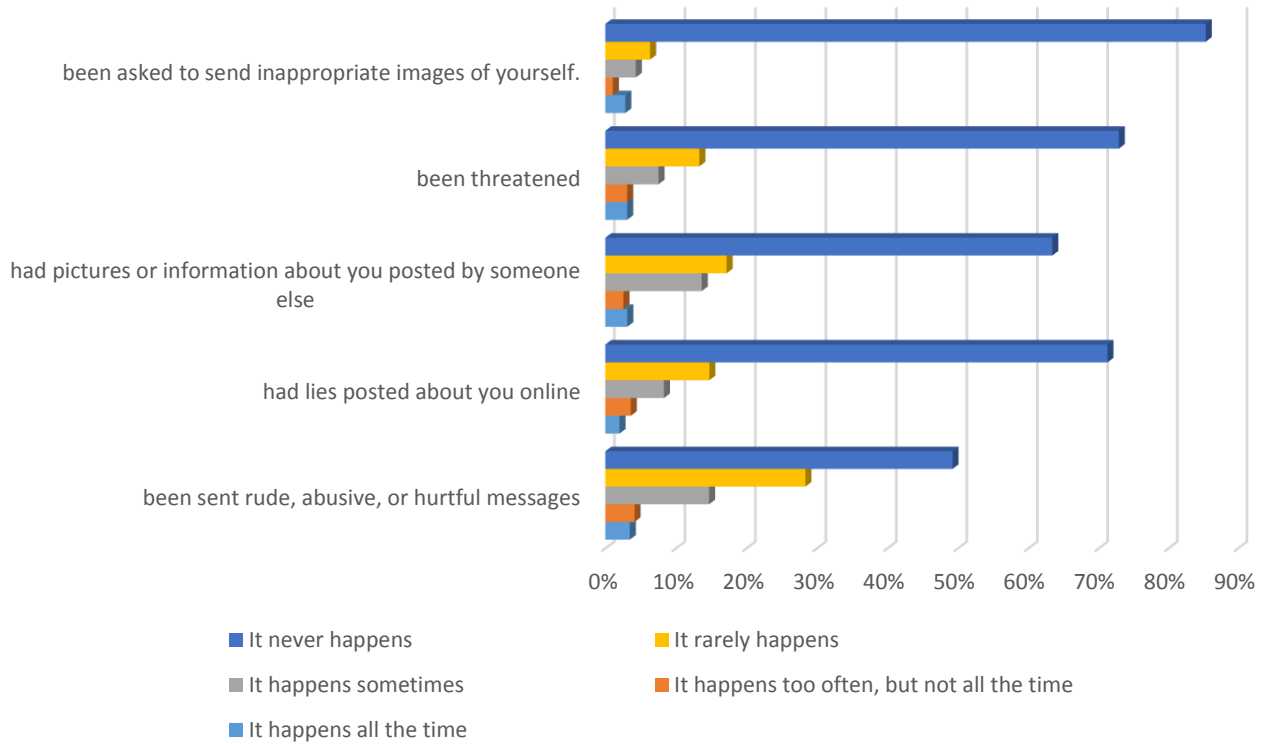
- sending threatening or abusive text messages
- creating and sharing embarrassing images or videos
- 'trolling' - the sending of menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games
- excluding children from online games, activities or friendship groups
- setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child
- encouraging young people to self-harm
- voting for or against someone in an abusive poll
- creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name
- sending explicit messages, also known as sexting
- pressuring children into sending sexual images or engaging in sexual conversations.

6.3 When questioned whether they have been sent rude, abusive or hurtful messages 74% of Years 3-5 and 49% of Years 6+ respondents claimed that it has never happened with 4% of Years 3-5 and 7% of Years 6+saying that it happens often or all the time.

- 6.4 When questioned whether they have had lies posted about them, 85% of Years 3-5 and 71% of Years 6+ claimed it that never happens with 4% of Years 3-5 and 6% of Years 6+ saying that it happens often or all the time.
- 6.5 When questioned if they have ever had pictures or information about them posted online by someone else, 90% of Years 3-5 and 63% of Years 6+ claimed that it never happens with 2% of Years 3-5 and 6% of Years 6+ saying that it happens often or all the time.
- 6.6 When questioned whether they had been threatened online 80% of Years 3-5 and 73% of Years 6+ responded that it never happens. 5% of Years 3-5 and 6% of Years 6+ said that it happens often or all the time.
- 6.7 When asked if they have ever been asked to send inappropriate images of themselves 96% of Years 3-5 and 85% responded that it has never happened. 2% (6) of Years 3-5 and 4% (29) of Years 6+ have said that it happens often or all the time.

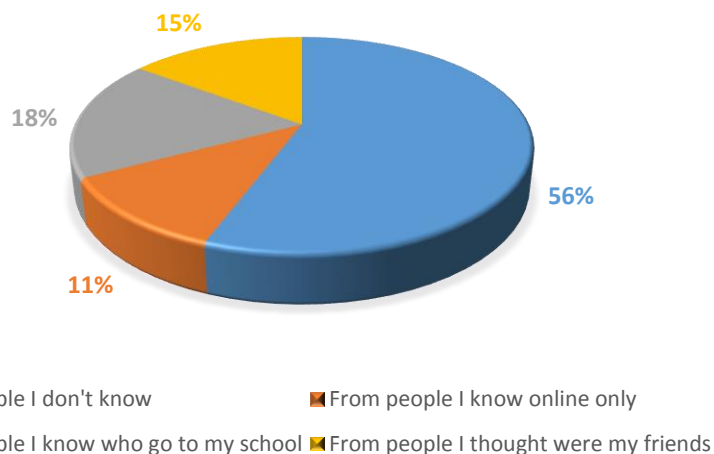


Year 6+

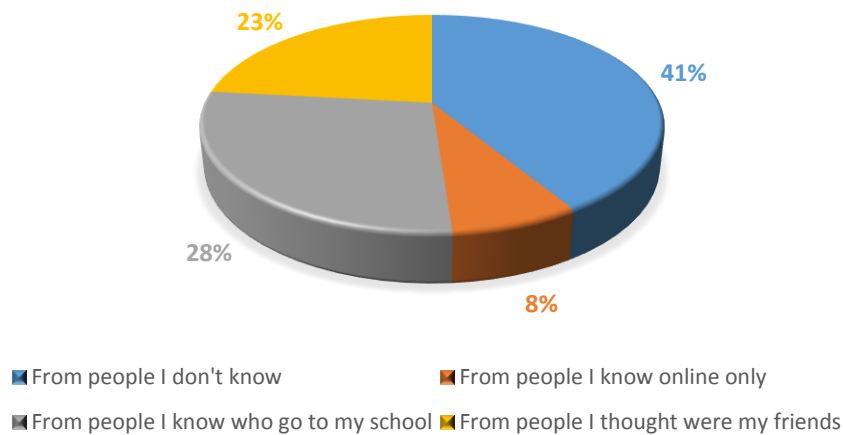


6.8 Of those who were bullied online, 56% (34) of Years 3-5 and 41% (71) of Years 6+ said it was by people they did not know whilst 18% (11) of Years 3-5 and 28% (48) of Years 6+ were bullied online by others who go to their school.

YEAR 3-5: IF BULLIED ONLINE, BY WHO?

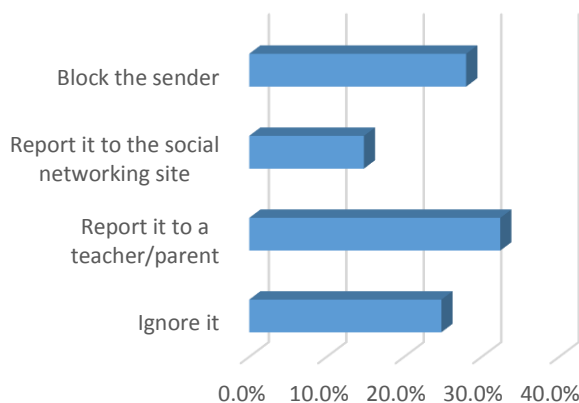


YEAR 6+: IF BULLIED ONLINE , BY WHO?

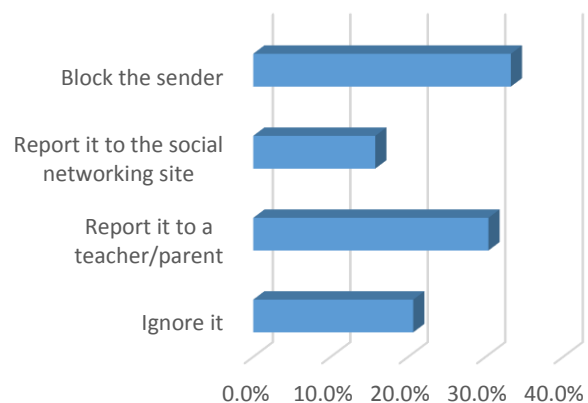


6.9 It is reassuring that those who have been bullied reported it. 28% of Years 3-5 and 33% of Years 6+ 'Blocked' the sender, 32% of Years 3-5 and 30% of Years 6+ reported it to a teacher, and 15% of Both Years 3-5 and Year 6+ reported the bullying and abusive behaviour to the website hosts and the remainder ignored them.

Year 3-5: What do you do if you have been bullied online?



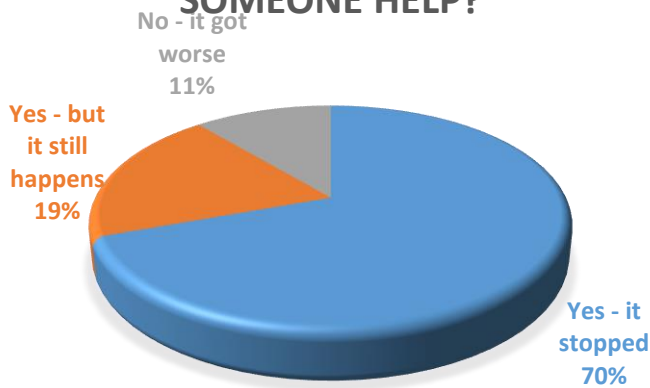
Year 6+: What do you do if you have been bullied online?



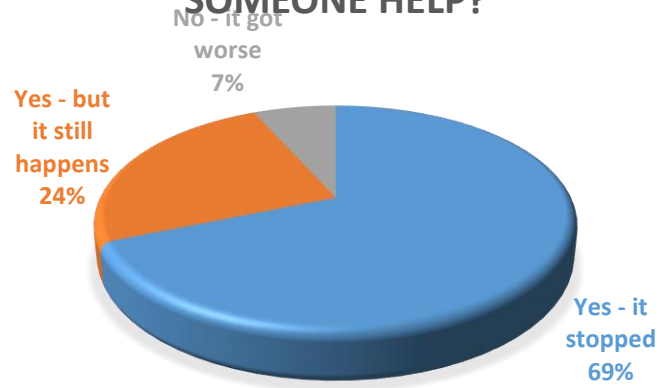
6.10 There were 45 additional comments made to the above question with a majority saying they have never been bullied online however there were some comments which was negative and included "Send abuse back"

6.11 A question asked whether the Bullying continued after it was reported. 69% of Years 3-5 and 70% of Years 6+ responded that it had stopped whilst 7% of Years 3-5 and 11% of Years 6+ responded that it has gotten worse since reporting it.

YEAR 3-5: DID TELLING SOMEONE HELP?



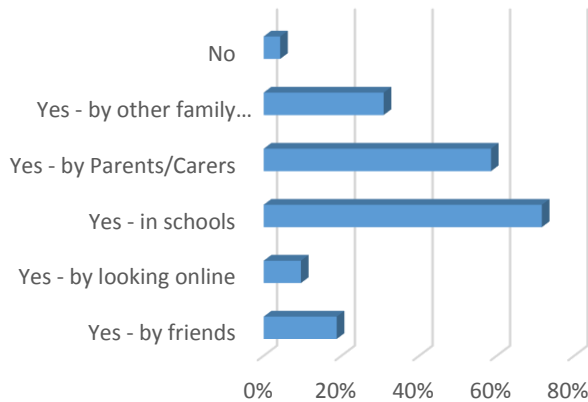
YEAR 6+: DID TELLING SOMEONE HELP?



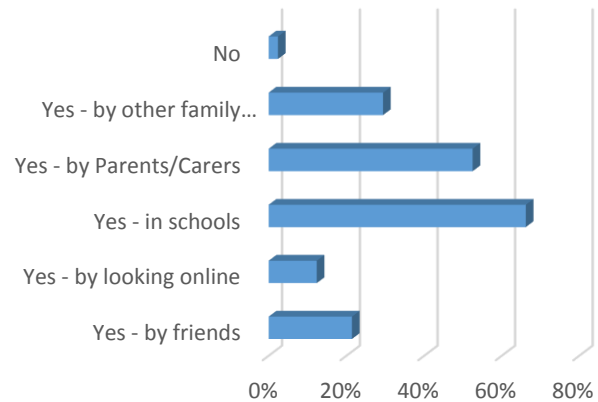
7 Online Safety Lessons

7.1 A series of questions were asked whether the children and young people had been taught how to stay safe online. Of these 72% of Years 3-5 and 66% of Years 6+ responded that they have been taught in school on how to stay safe online.

Year 3-5: Have you been taught how to stay safe online?

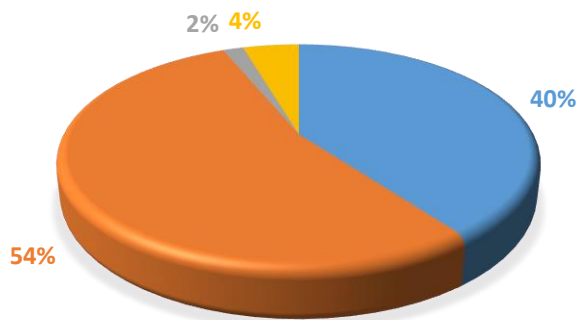


Year 6+: Have you been taught how to stay safe online?



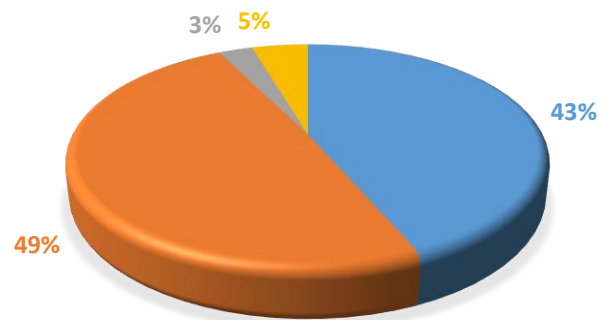
7.2 92% of children and young people in years 3-5 and 94% of children and young people in years 6+ felt the information received about online safety was good or useful however only 70% of years 3-5 and 51% of years 6+ always followed what they were taught. Worryingly 8% (19) of years 3-5 and 9% (65) of years 6+ rarely followed what was taught in relation to online safety.

YEAR 3-5: HOW GOOD WAS THE INFORMATION?



■ Good ■ Useful ■ Not good enough ■ Useless

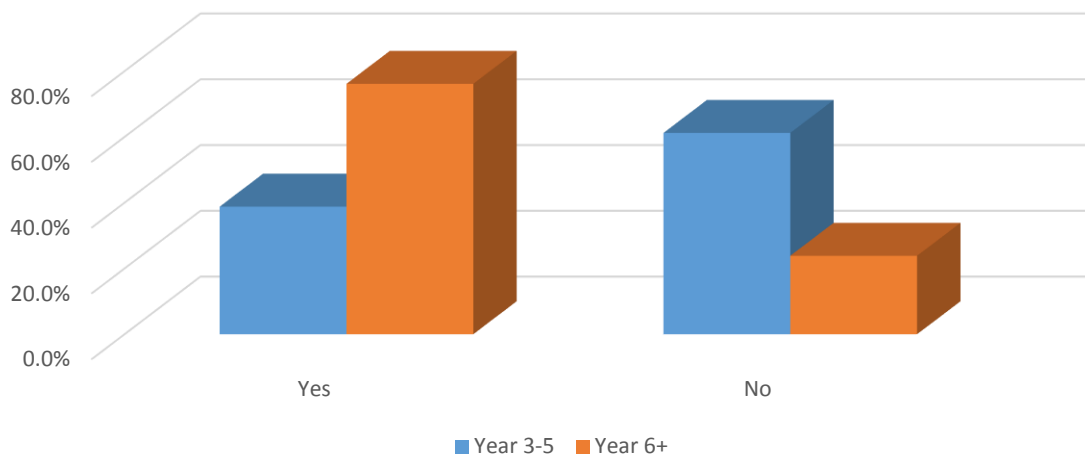
YEAR 6+: HOW GOOD WAS THE INFORMATION?



■ Good ■ Useful ■ Not good enough ■ Useless

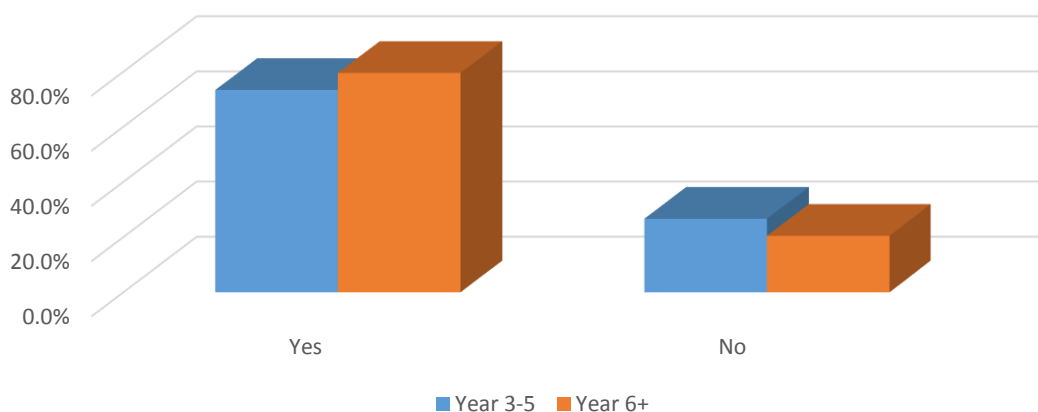
7.3 It is also worrying that 61% of years 3-5 and 24% of years 6+ do not use privacy settings on social networking sites or apps.

Do you use social networking site and apps privacy settings?



7.4 When questioned whether they felt children and young people would benefit from lessons relating to online life and the law 73% of Years 3-5 and 80% of years 6+ said yes.

Do you think people your age need lessons about online life and what the law says?



8 Sharing of Inappropriate Images

8.1 For schools years 6 and upwards covering the age ranges 10 – 18, additional questions were asked regarding the sharing of intimate or inappropriate images also known as Sexting.

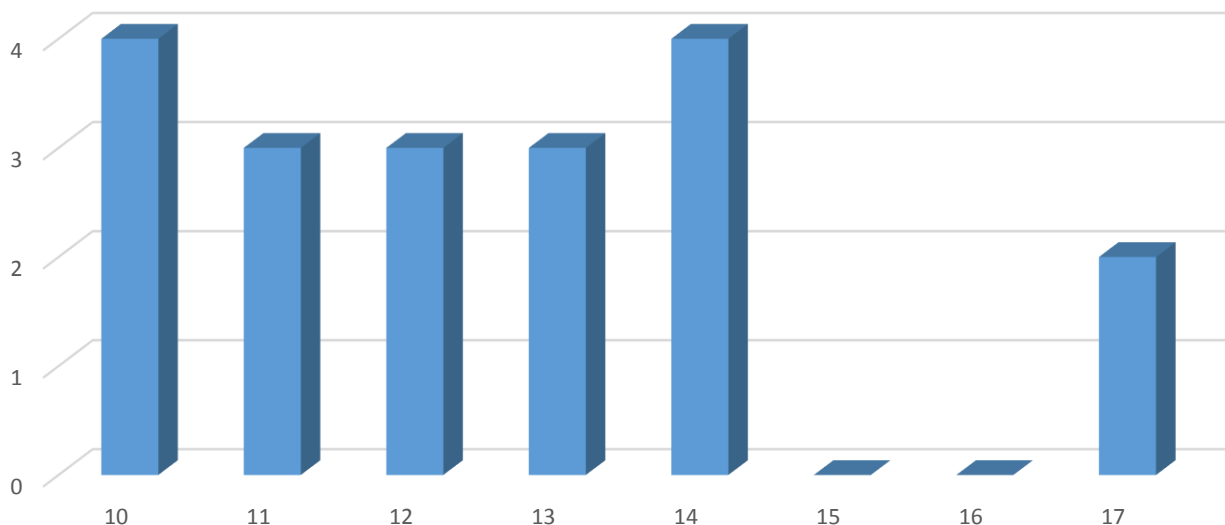
8.2 Sexting is when someone shares sexual, naked or semi-naked images or videos of themselves or others, or sends sexually explicit messages. These can be sent using any device that allows media and messages to be shared.

8.3 When questioned, 97% (659) of young people in Years 6+ responded said they had not shared inappropriate images or videos of themselves with another person however 3% (19) said they had shared images. It is important to note that 157 did not answer this question.

HAVE YOU EVER SHARED INTIMATE OR INAPPROPRIATE IMAGES OR VIDEOS OF YOURSELF WITH ANOTHER PERSON

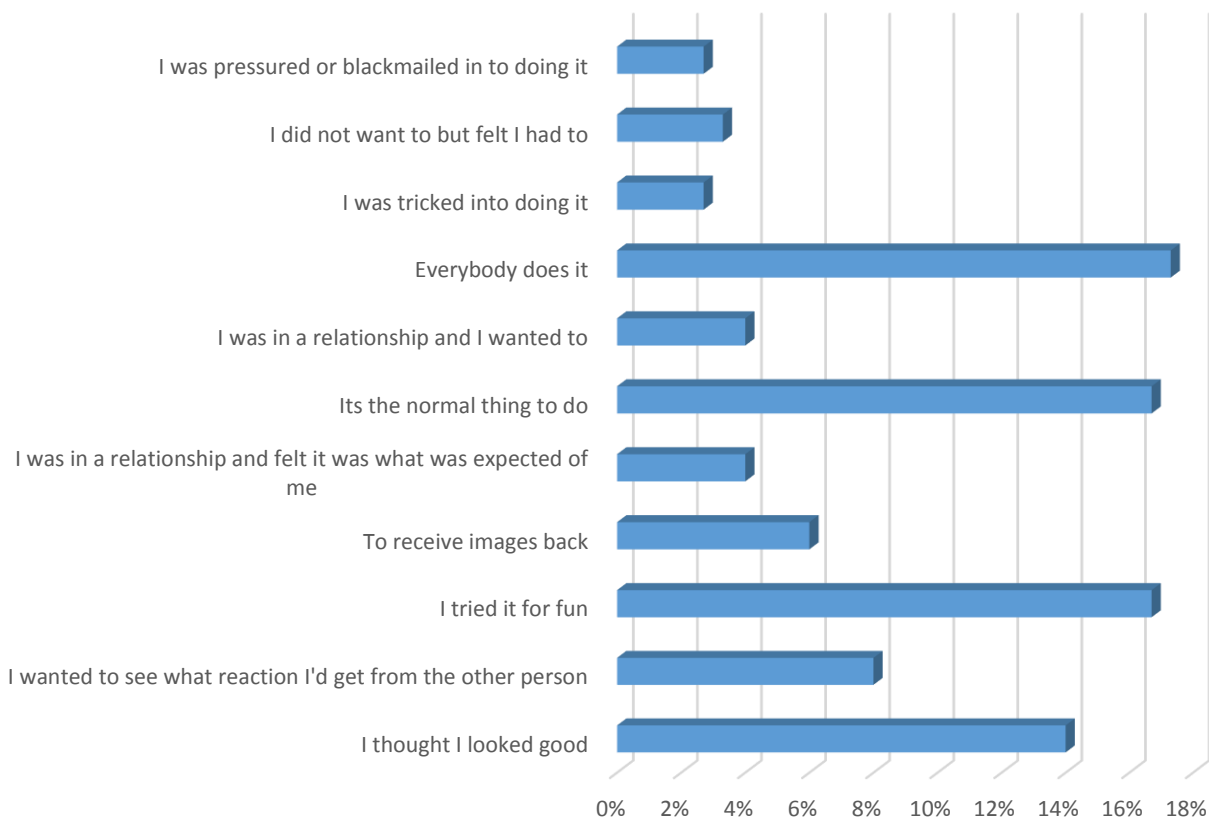


8.4 Out of the 19 who responded “Yes”, 42% were girls and 58% were boys. Also out of the 19 responses, 17 were aged between 10 and 14.



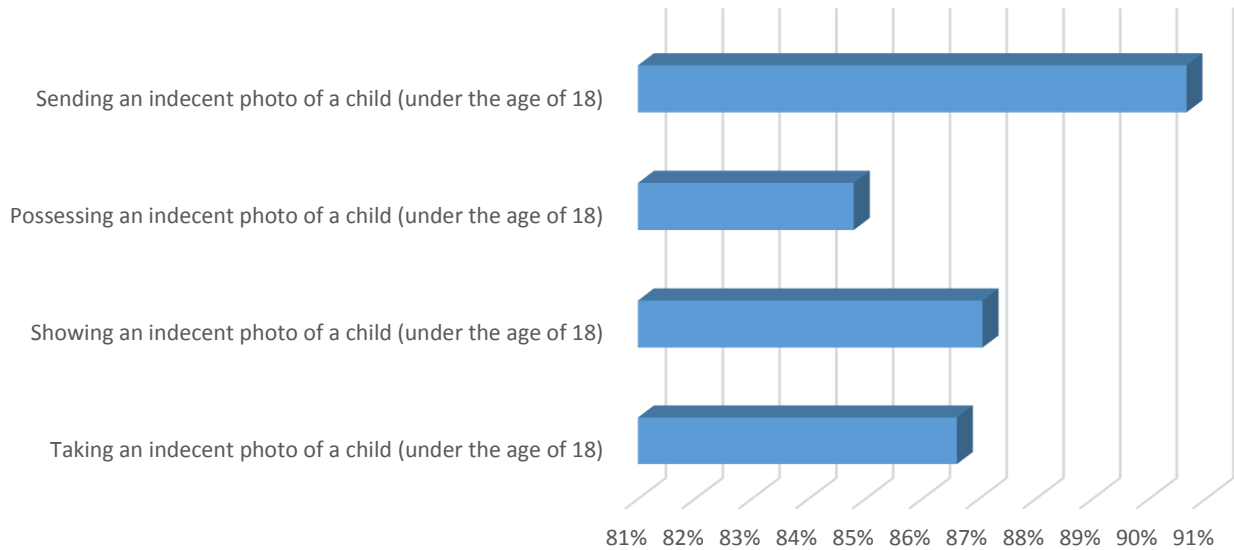
8.5 Even though 19 young people responded with having sent intimate images of themselves, 150 young people responded to “why did you do this?” 17% had said that everybody does it, 16% said it was the normal thing to do and 16% said they tried it for fun.

Why did you do this?



- 8.6 Young people were provided with 6 statements and asked to select which ones they agreed with as reasons for sending inappropriate images. The statements were;
- Sending intimate photos to people is just harmless fun and part of growing up
 - To be appealing to somebody I find attractive, it is important that I send them photos to capture their attention
 - It is important to send photos to someone to show that I trust them
 - I believe it is safe to send photos of myself
 - I don't think sending intimate photos of myself to others could impact me later on in life
 - I think it is important to send naked photos of myself to somebody who I am attracted to.
- 8.7 43% felt sending intimate photos would not impact them later in life, 31% felt sending intimate photos was safe.
- 8.8 It was hoped that if they did not agree with the options provided then they would not select any of the statements. This was represented with 650 having skipped this question. There was also 116 comments from young people who said "I don't agree with any of these statements", "I strongly disagree with the options above", "none, because I'm sensible" and "No matter who it is you should not send any naked pictures".
- 8.9 The final question of the survey was to ask which of the following was considered a crime.
- Taking an indecent photo of a child (under the age of 18)
 - Showing an indecent photo of a child (under the age of 18)
 - Possessing an indecent photo of a child (under the age of 18)
 - Sending an indecent photo of a child (under the age of 18)
- 8.10 Reassuringly there were over 85% correct responses for each crime including 91% stating that sending an indecent image of a child is a crime. Worryingly 15% (95) of children and young people responded that possessing an indecent image of a child under 18 was not considered a crime.

which of these do you think is considered a crime?



9 Conclusion

- 9.1 The responses from the survey evidences that young people who responded knew how to stay safe online and how to report cyberbullying however there were a few who do not always follow this.
- 9.2 There needs to be an emphasis to children and young people that not everyone online may be who they appear to be and children and young people who uses social networking site such as Facebook, Snapchat and WhatsApp, should only make friends with people who they know and trust and to remind them of Online Stranger Danger.
- 9.3 Despite the low number of young people sharing inappropriate images, young people need to be made aware of the possible dangers by sending these images both to themselves now and in the future.
- 9.4 During February 2017 to coincide with Safer Internet Day, Cambridgeshire Constabulary with involvement from partners are undertaking a media campaign on the topic of Sexting, Making friends online and Online Grooming which will help to further promote the messages. The main objectives of the campaign being;
- What sexting is
 - The laws
 - The dangers
 - What to do if you are being pressured
 - Who you can speak to
- 9.5 It is suggested working with Gaynor Mansell, Education Safeguarding Lead and Sergeant Susie Tinsley, Peterborough Safer Schools and Young Person Team, on how to further improve the Online Safety sessions held within schools based on the findings from this survey.