



PHS Online Safety Advice

Online Safety Support

Keeping your children safe online can be a mine field. We would like to provide you with some advice and support to help families monitor and support their children. Signposting to some useful websites and further training may also assist. We have also included some feedback from a recent survey students completed in school about their online safety—well worth a look at the results.

What do we do in school?

- We educate—through PHSE and Computing lessons as well as through pastoral provision in assemblies and tutor time. This is regularly reviewed and adapted to match the fast changing world of technology and to reflect our student needs. We consider what content that is illegal or harmful they may be exposed to, contact—harmful online interaction, importance of appropriate conduct to reduce the likelihood of harm and the risks of commerce such as scams, phishing and online gambling.
- We monitor— we have thorough filtering and monitoring processes. Filtering enables us to control and block inappropriate content being accessed and works in line with Government requirements in school. We use Sophos Security Gateway for this. Monitoring is completed on a daily basis with staff tasked with monitoring IT use in the classroom and SENSO software being alerted for safety and inappropriate use of IT and followed up.
- We support - when there are online incidents (including outside school) we offer support and guidance, referring on to support as needed. We also share general advice with parents and carers such as through newsletters and social media.

Take a look: [PHS Online Safety Website Page](#)

Reporting Issues

School staff are always happy to help and are experienced in a range of issues. You can contact the House Team for your child, or Fiona Lovecy, Designated Safeguarding Lead. Alternatively use some of the links below to report problems yourself. It is helpful to let school staff know to help support your child in school.

- If your child is at risk phone 999 if it is an emergency and they are at immediate risk of harm or otherwise 101.
- [CEOP](#) - (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) deal with online sexual abuse (police agency)
- [Internet Watch Foundation](#)—use to report illegal internet content
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)—provide advice

Supporting Parents Course options

We are delighted to be able to offer a **free online safety** session for parents from the NSPCC. This will be on **Monday 26th February from 7pm-8pm**. If you would like to sign up for this please [complete this short form](#) and a link will be sent to you a week prior to the session.

IN the meantime you may be interested in:

Kidscape—[digital online training for parents](#).

YGAM—[provides free workshops online for parents on gaming and gambling online](#)

Free advice sheets, family agreements and guides from the [Safer Internet Organisation](#).

Have you thought about?

The risks in the range of devices you have in your home that can access the internet? E.g. Smart TV, or speaker?

Help available here: [Parents Guides](#)



Is the Wizz App Safe?

Is an app aimed at 13+ users which is intended to be a place to make online friends from anywhere and everywhere. It

is similar to a dating app. You are presented with other people's profiles and can choose to either swipe them away or start a conversation.

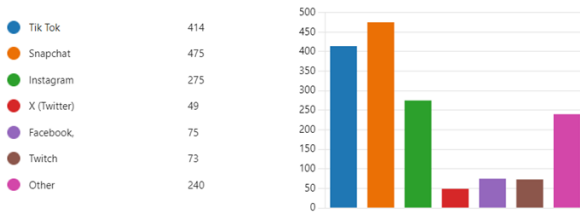
It tries to create a positive environment and claims anyone violating the guidelines will be banned, but harmful content can be found. This can include abusive terms, sexual content, violence, drug/substance content and more. Many images are overtly sexual and inappropriate. When downloaded it asks for your age. It verifies age with a face scan, but the AI technology is not foolproof. There is a real risk of predation—chatting to strangers is very easy so children can be victims of catfishing and grooming or even online sexual abuse. There are no parental controls on it. It is not a recommended app for children.

Online Safety Survey

Below are some of the responses from the student online safety survey completed during December. It was a wide ranging survey to discover students' awareness and actions around online safety. Responses were gained from 666 students answered from all year groups. The information has enabled us to plan some changes to the curriculum and pastoral coverage in school, but it is also important to share results with parents to prompt discussion and possible action in the home.

5. Indicate which social media platforms you mainly use: (0 point)

[More Details](#)

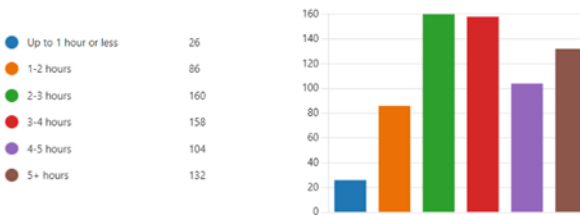


It is useful to know what the main platforms are used by students. Do you know what your child(ren) use? Do you know how to check their use?

Students also identified WhatsApp and YouTube as other main platforms. Gaming apps such as Roblox and Minecraft can also be used socially with friends and strangers.

9. How long do you usually spend online each day? (0 point)

[More Details](#)



25% of students have limits on their screen times during weekdays.

16% of students have limits on their screen times during weekends.

In order to safeguard wellbeing this may be something to consider. Overexposure to screens can affect sleep cycles, weaken communication and social skills, plus thinking and language skills, can increase anxiety due to increasing arousal of central nervous system and of course reduces physical activity. 20% admitted waking in the night to check their phone. [Further Advice on screen](#)

- 99% of the students confirmed it's important to stay safe online
- 90% confirmed their parents or carers had talked to them about staying safe online.
- 55% of students said their parents ask what they do online
- Most were worried about other people/strangers online, either taking personal information, taking control or being mean
- 14% said they had seen things online which really upset them –this was mostly animals injured or dying or people being dead or hurt
- 15% also felt under pressure to appear perfect on social media
- 29% admitted changing their date of birth to appear older and create social media accounts
- 47% have give apps permission to access their location, photos or contacts

Need help and advice with any of these concerns? Use these links or contact school.

[Family Digital Toolkit](#)

[Social media settings](#)

[Social Media Online Safety](#)

[Social Media Body Image](#)

[Social Media Age Guidance](#)

[Advice for parents Online Safety](#)

[Fake news and information](#)

[Online Help for SEND Students](#)