

Online Safety

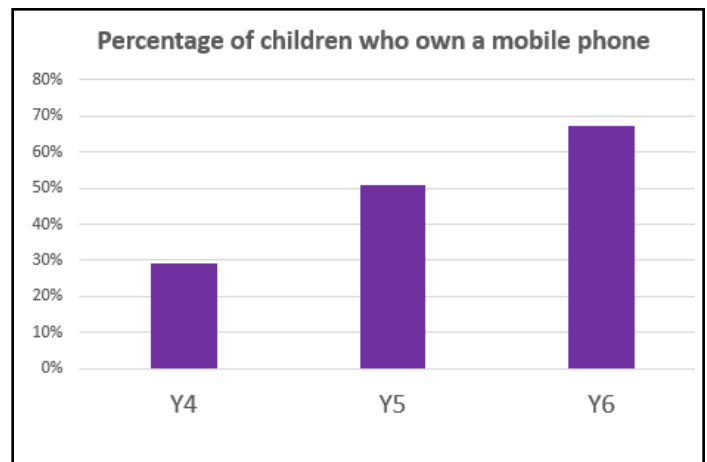


October 2023

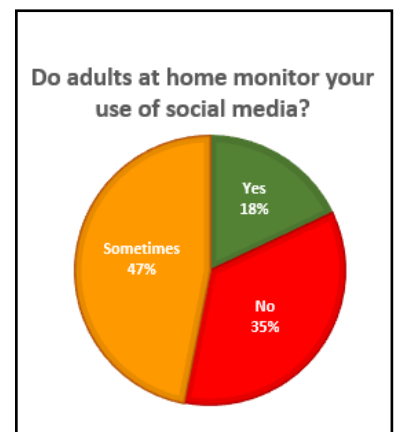
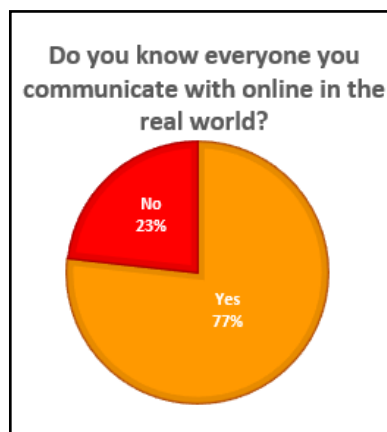
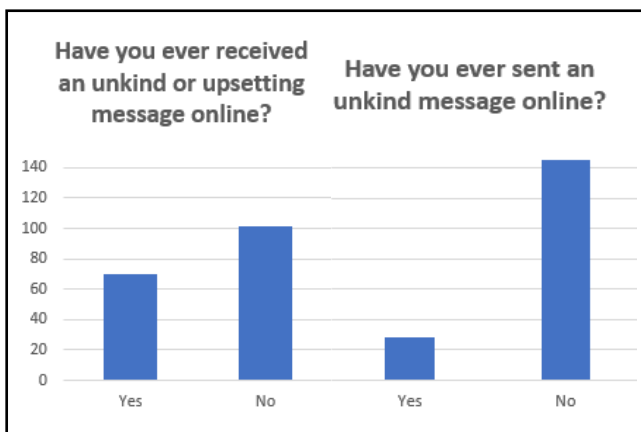
At the start of the year, we have again carried out anonymous pupil surveys with children in Years 4, 5 and 6 to find out about their online habits out of school.

The online world is very important to children and a valuable part of their lives. Going online does come with risks and we have detailed here some of the actions we will be taken as a school alongside information and guidance to support keeping your child safe when online at home.

Pupil responses



A significant proportion of our pupils believe that they spend more than 3 hours online each night. As expected, pupils also report being much more likely to own a mobile phone as they get older, increasing from 50% in Year 5 to 67% at the start of Year 6. We have developed a series of parent guides, including around reducing children's screen time which are available on the school website: <https://pevenseyschool.org.uk/parents/parentguide>.

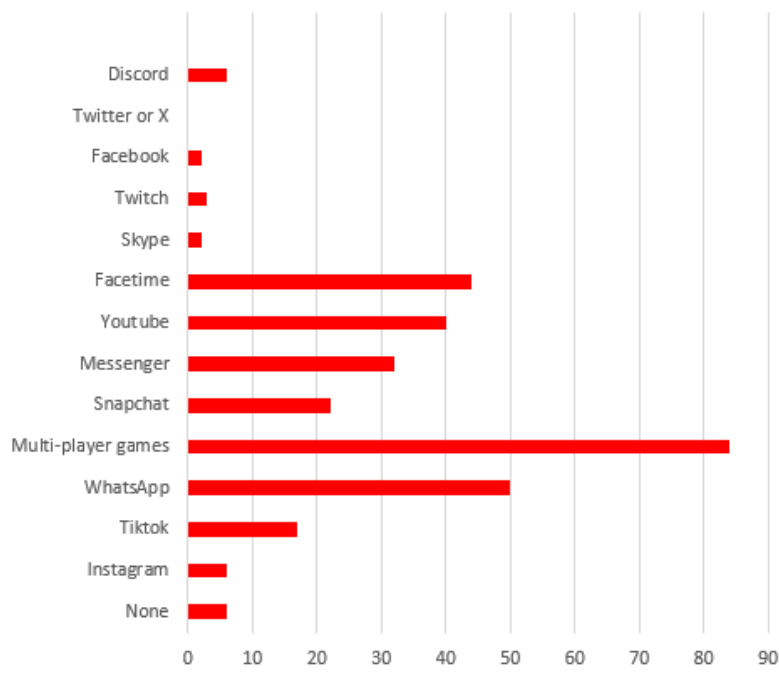


Many families have concerns around their child's mental health and wellbeing. Having access to a social media account will increase the chance of your child falling victim to some form of cyberbullying out of school. When such instances occur, the school is often then asked by parents to investigate and address this with the children in school. Not only does this impact on children's wellbeing, it also takes children and staffs time away from learning in the classroom.

Of those children who access a social media account, only 18% felt that this is consistently monitored by an adult at home. Nearly a quarter of pupils who access social media, communicate online with people who they do not know in the real world. As we have previously highlighted, not everyone online will have your child's best interests at heart. Online predators look to exploit children and this may include child grooming, engaging in sexual activities, unwanted exposure to materials and pictures, online harassment, threats to cause fear or embarrassment.

Children are risk takers and it is vital for their own safety that we all do everything we can to keep them protected when they are online.

How do you communicate online with friends?



We are working with the reality that many of our pupils communicate online with others through a range of means out of school.

Children have shared with us that the most common way they do this is through multiplayer games. Although WhatsApp has a 16+ age rating, over 50% of our Year 6 pupils report using WhatsApp to communicate.

'What parents need to know about...' guides are available for a range of Apps and online platforms, including WhatsApp, via the school website:

www.pevenseyschool.org.uk/safeguarding/online-safety

This term, we have already started work in responding to our pupil feedback. This has included continued awareness raising that not everyone online may be who they seem. We will further tailor our curriculum to ensure children have all the tools they need in order to keep themselves safe whether they use the above Apps to communicate with others now or in the future.

We have a preventative online safety curriculum in place delivered in an age-appropriate way. Some of the key milestones are included within our PaWS Passports: www.pevenseyschool.org.uk/learning/pawspassports.

Children learn about managing their own conduct online and the long term impact for themselves of having a negative digital footprint. With the information we have garnered from the children, the guidance we provide will be linked to specific sites as well as social media in general. **Staff will never advocate the use of age-restricted sites by our pupils.**

Keeping our children safe is everyone's responsibility. We would ask that parents and carers talk to their children at home about social media and the reasons why they should not be accessing social media or content which is not appropriate for their age.

The purpose of sharing this information is to help families and the school work together to *prepare all our children with the knowledge, skills, values and behaviours they will need in order to flourish, reach their potential and enjoy fullness of life.*

If you ever have an online safety concern, please share this with your child's class teacher or directly with Mr Paramor.

13 years old and upwards

16 years old and upwards

Only suitable for 18 years olds and upwards



Tiktok



Instagram



Twitch



WhatsApp



Periscope



Omegle



Tagged



Facebook



Snapchat



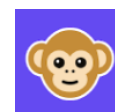
Tumblr



Flickr



Yolo



Monkey



Twitter/X



Bebo



Discord



Vimeo



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Meet Me