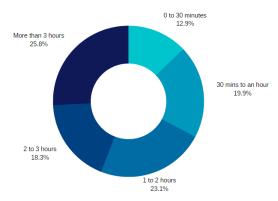
## Online Safety



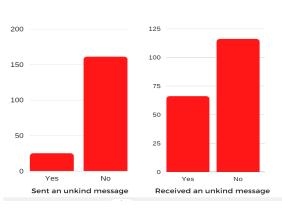
At the start of the year, we carried out anonymous pupil surveys with children in Years 4, 5 and 6 to find our about their online habits out of school. Below are the results of the survey alongside actions PaWS will take to best support our pupils in staying safe online. We have also highlighted to parents and carers clear information and guidance to support at home.

## Pupil responses

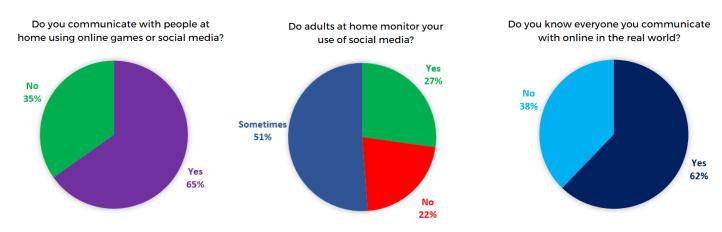
How long do you think you spend online each day out of school?



Have you ever sent or received an unkind or upsetting message online?



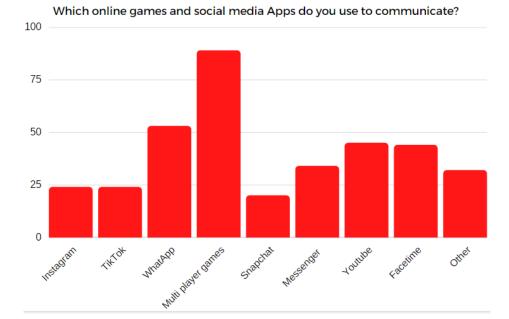
A significant proportion of our pupils believe that they spend more than 3 hours online each night. We will use our RSHE Life Skills curriculum to further highlight to the children healthy online habits. We will also develop guidance documents for parents with strategies if you have concerns about the amount of screen time your child has.



On previous occasions, we have highlighted to parents and pupils the age restrictions for a range of social media sites and APPs (see table overleaf). We have also shared some of the reasons for why these restrictions are in place. As you may well be aware, many families make the decision to allow their children to access these in any case.

The responses shared by pupils indicate that where parents have made this decision, nearly three quarters of children do not feel this access is monitored or is only sometimes monitored by an adult. 38% of the children who engage in social media out of school, do not know everyone they communicate with in the real world. This means that some of our children are communicating online with unknown individuals.

It is a harsh reality that the world of social media is a place where online predators seek to build up relationships with children and they would not have your child's interests at heart. This is just one of the risks associated with social media and as a school we cannot stress enough the age restrictions and the responsibility of parents to ensure that their child's online habits are actively supervised. 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.



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. We also know that a high proportion of pupils use WhatsApp.

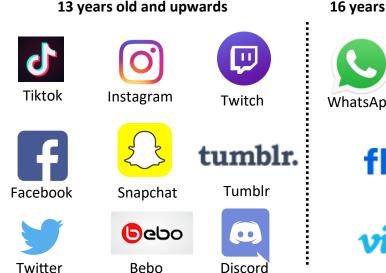
We will further tailor our curriculum to ensure children have all the tools they need in order to keep themselves safe whether they use the above to communicate with others now or in the future. This includes children having clear guidance for limiting their exposure to strangers, what to do if they receive abusive or unsettling messages and how to respond if they are exposed to inappropriate content. Children also 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.

We would like to direct all our parents and carers to the online safety and safeguarding pages on our school website where we have a range of information and support. This includes resources for talking about online safety at home as well as ways to monitor and set up effective parental controls. There is also information with links to specific websites, games and Apps, many of which are listed below.

## https://pevenseyschool.org.uk/safeguarding/online-safety

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 the school through Lorraine Delaney, our Safeguarding Lead.







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