

Techknow**ledge**

FOR SCHOOLS

INTERNET SAFETY REPORT KEY FINDINGS

Dr Barbie Clarke and Kathryn Crowther

FAMILY KIDS AND YOUTH: 10 FEBRUARY 2015

Contents

Introduction	3
Open-ended responses	3
School Context	3
Tablets for Schools	3
Family Kids and Youth	4
Key Findings	5
The Findings	6
1. Speaking to Strangers	6
2. Negative Online Experiences	6
3. Taking Devices to Bed	7
4. Safe Internet Use	8
5. Use of Internet Filters	10

Introduction¹

This summary reports on the key findings relating to internet safety from the 'Using the Internet Survey' conducted with 30 schools (11 primary and 19 secondary schools) across the UK on behalf of Tablets for Schools. Separate online questionnaires were sent to primary and secondary pupils, with primary pupils sent a shorter version of the longer secondary questionnaire. Research was carried out between 13 January and 3 February 2015 by research company Family Kids & Youth.

The findings are based on responses from:

- 6,564 Secondary school pupils (Years 7 – 13)
- 879 Primary school pupils (Years 4-6)

Open-ended responses

The survey includes several open ended questions, and a few quotes from these are included in this summary report although over 12,000 responses were received. The 5,410 open ended responses from the question 'What advice would you give to other people your age about keeping safe online?' has led to the Tablets for Schools 'Stay Safe Online' campaign and its poster with 'Top 10 Tips'.

School Context

From the sample of 30 schools, one secondary school and two primary schools are not currently using one-to-one devices at all. However several schools are using one-to-one devices in some years only.

Tablets for Schools

Tablets for Schools is a registered charity passionate about the transformative effect of technology in the classroom and beyond. It brings together teachers, industry leaders and academics, using robust and independent research on how tablets and mobile technology can impact learning and attainment. In the last 3 years Tablets for Schools, in collaboration with research company FK&Y, has carried out extensive research looking at the use of Tablets in education. This has included three literature reviews and primary quantitative research with over 4,000 young people using 1-2-1 Tablets in schools; teacher leaders at 40 schools using 1-2-1 Tablets; teacher leaders at 671 UK schools about their Tablet use; over 50 face-to-face focus groups with parents, teacher leaders, governors, teachers and students in schools using one-to-one Tablets.

¹ Please note that Techknowledge for Schools changed its name from Tablets for Schools in May 2015

Tablets for Schools is led by Director Mary Palmer. Mary is passionate about the way in which one-to-one mobile devices can be used to foster the democratisation of education by allowing each child in school access to the internet and the best learning resources to prepare them for life in the twenty-first century. <http://www.tabletsforschools.org.uk/>

Family Kids and Youth

Established in 2002, FK&Y has recently worked on research projects with children and young people for the BBC, Unilever, IKEA, The Prudential, The University of Cambridge, The Department of Health and The Department for Education. It is the main consultant and supplier to IKEA on family and children's research and author of The Play Report, the largest study ever carried out in 25 countries on parenting and play. FK&Y is the long-term evaluator for Youth United looking at the notion of behaviour change in childhood and adolescence through young people's involvement in community activity. FK&Y's report on digital advertising and marketing to children on behalf of CAP and the ASA was published on 5 February 2015.

FK&Y is a Company Partner of the Market Research Society (MRS), and holds membership with the British Educational Research Association (BERA), ESOMAR and the British Psychology Society (BPS), abiding by the codes of conduct of these organizations, including those guidelines involving research with children. FK&Y works closely with the Faculty of Education, Cambridge and the Department of Education, Sussex, and its advisors are Professor David Buckingham, University of Loughborough and Professor Colleen McLaughlin, University of Sussex and Cambridge. FK&Y has been appointed onto the new UK SBS government research roster as a supplier of research with children and young people. All members of staff have DBS clearance. <http://www.kidsandyouth.com/>

Key Findings

- Half of secondary pupils and over a quarter of primary pupils have communicated with people they do not know when using social media.
- Three-tenths of secondary pupils and over a quarter of primary pupils have experienced something online that concerned, upset or frightened them.
- Tablet use at school however increases the likelihood of pupils telling somebody about seeing something online that has concerned, upset or frightened them.
- Less than a fifth of secondary pupils and a tenth of primary pupils have personally experienced something negative happening to them online; most commonly receiving a hurtful message or being bullied. Furthermore, nearly two-fifths of secondary pupils and a fifth of primary pupils know someone who has been upset or made to feel bad about themselves online.
- Seven-tenths of secondary pupils and half of primary pupils take an internet enabled device to bed with them at night.
- However, secondary pupils who use a Tablet at school and at home are less likely to take an internet enabled device to bed with them.
- Around nine-tenths of primary and secondary pupils report that their school talks to them about being safe online.
- Online privacy is an issue for secondary pupils with seven-tenths reporting that they are concerned about keeping their details private online.
- Secondary pupils who use a Tablet at school, at home or both are more concerned about keeping their details private online, suggesting a greater awareness of the importance of internet safety.
- Less than a fifth of secondary pupils report that their parents/carers block access to any websites. However nine-tenths of secondary pupils and four-fifths of primary pupils report that their school stops them from going on some websites/apps when they are using the internet at school.
- Over four-fifths of secondary pupils know how to change their privacy settings on social networks.
- Half of secondary pupils (51%) and three-fifths of primary pupils (60%) agree that using a tablet or other device at school every day has made them more aware of using the internet safely.
- Young people in the survey have firm views about using the internet safely. In response to the question '*what advice would you give to other people your age about keeping safe online?*' the survey received responses from over 4,700 secondary school pupils aged 11-18 and 700 primary school pupils aged 7-11.

The Findings

1. Speaking to Strangers

- **Around half of secondary pupils (48%) and over a quarter (28%) of primary pupils have communicated with people they do not know when using social media.** Amongst secondary pupils this has happened on Instagram (24%), Facebook (18%), Snapchat (16%), Twitter (13%) and Kik (12%). By contrast, primary pupils report communicating with people they do not know on Skype (9%), email (7%), Instagram (6%), Facetime (5%) and Whatsapp (5%).
- **Over a third (36%) of secondary pupils and a third of primary pupils (34%) have communicated with people they do not know whilst gaming.** Amongst secondary pupils this has occurred whilst playing Call of Duty (20%), Grand Theft Auto (17%), Fifa (16%) and Minecraft (14%). Primary school pupils are most likely to have communicated with people they do not know on Minecraft (19%), Fifa (14%), Call of Duty (10%) and Clash of Clans (9%).
- **Communicating with strangers whilst gaming is much more common amongst primary and secondary aged boys.** 64% of secondary and 49% of primary boys have communicated with someone they did not know whilst gaming, compared to just 16% of secondary and 24% of primary girls who report doing this. This is likely to reflect the higher proportion of boys who engage in online gaming.

“You should always be careful if you are playing online games with people you do not know and if you post public information or pictures you could be in danger.” Boy aged 11

2. Negative Online Experiences

- **Around three-tenths of secondary pupils have experienced something online that concerned, upset or frightened them (29%).** This rises to 35% of secondary girls, compared to 21% of secondary boys. Pupils are most likely to have shared such an experience with a friend (57%), followed by their parents (38%), or another relative (13%). A quarter (24%) of secondary pupils did not tell anyone about their negative experience online.
- **Over a quarter of primary pupils have experienced something online that concerned, upset or frightened them (27%).** Primary pupils are most likely to have told their parents (62%), followed by their friends (31%). 15% told their teacher or another relative. However there is still a fifth (19%) of primary pupils who did not tell anyone about what they had experienced.
- **Tablet use in school increases the likelihood of pupils telling somebody about seeing something online that has concerned, upset or frightened them.** Just 14% of primary pupils who use a Tablet at school and at home did not tell anyone about such an experience, compared to a quarter (25%) of pupils who *only* use a Tablet at home. 16% of secondary pupils who use a Tablet at school *and* at home report not telling anyone, compared to a fifth

(20%) of pupils who only use a Tablet at home, and 26% of pupils who do not use a Tablet at all.

- **15% of secondary pupils and 11% of primary pupils have personally experienced something negative online.** Across both school groups this is most likely to have involved receiving a hurtful message (55% secondary, 31% primary) or being bullied (39% secondary, 31% primary). Around a quarter of secondary pupils report that it involved somebody posting something about them that was not true (24%), compared to 12% of primary pupils. 19% of secondary and 13% of primary pupils say that it involved somebody posting a picture that they did not want to be shown.
- **Nearly two-fifths (37%) of secondary pupils and a fifth (22%) of primary pupils know someone who has been upset or made to feel bad about themselves online.** For secondary pupils, knowing someone who has received a hurtful message is most common (53%), compared to 30% of primary pupils. For primary pupils it is knowing someone who has been bullied (36%), compared to 45% of secondary pupils. For both school groups this is followed by someone posting something that was not true (30% secondary, 16% primary) or someone posting a picture that they did not want to be shown (21% secondary, 10% primary).

“Always tell a trusted adult if you see something you do not think you should have or if you think you are being cyberbullied.” Boy aged 10

3. Taking Devices to Bed

- **Seven-tenths of secondary pupils take an internet enabled device to bed with them at night (70%).** Of these, 70% take a smartphone, 25% take a Tablet and just 5% take a Laptop. Secondary pupils are primarily using their devices in bed to talk to their friends (69%) and look at YouTube or other film/picture websites (67%). However, using a device to play a game on their own or to read is also common (41% and 28% respectively). 17% of secondary pupils use a device in bed to do their homework and 16% use it to play games with others.
- **Primary pupils are less likely than secondary pupils to take an internet enabled device to bed with them, although half still do this (50%).** Primary pupils are most likely to take a Tablet (54%), an iPod (35%) or a smartphone (31%). As with secondary pupils, they are generally using a device in bed to play games on their own (61%), or to look at YouTube or other film/picture websites (48%). Nearly two-fifths use the device to read (38%) and 31% use it to talk to their friends. A fifth (19%) of primary pupils use a device in bed to do their homework.
- **Secondary pupils who use a Tablet at school and at home are less likely to take an internet enabled device to bed with them.** Two-thirds (66%) of secondary pupils who use a Tablet at school *and* at home take an internet enabled device to bed with them, compared to around three-quarters of secondary pupils who *only* use a Tablet at home (73%) and 71% who do not use a Tablet at all.

"I am constantly on it, whether it be on my phone, tablet, PlayStation 4, my PC... Everything is connected. Also I will lie awake for hours at night watching YouTube, as for example, I will click on one video, then in the 'suggested videos' section I will find another one that looks interesting and I will watch that upon the current videos completion. This will be repeated numerous times, usually until 1-2AM in the morning some nights." Boy aged 17

"Sometimes I spend too long on it and then the evening is over and I haven't been able to do anything else." Girl aged 11

"There's so much on the internet, especially on YouTube that at first you only choose one video but you're too tempted to watch more and suddenly it takes half an hour until you have finished watching them all. Plus your friends are constantly in need to talk to you, or [there is] some news or gossip you need to find out." Girl aged 14

4. Safe Internet Use

- Nearly two-thirds of secondary pupils agree that it is easier to say something hurtful to someone online than in real life (64%). By contrast, just 38% of primary pupils agree.
- **A fifth of secondary pupils have said something hurtful to someone online (20%).** Secondary-aged boys are more likely to have done this than girls (24% boys vs. 16% girls). Primary pupils are also less likely to have said something online that was hurtful (11%), although again this is more common amongst boys (13% boys vs. 9% girls).
- **Two-thirds of secondary pupils think very carefully about what people might say about them before they post pictures or comments online (67%).** Secondary-aged girls are more conscious of this than boys, with 73% of agreeing that they think carefully, compared to 61% of boys.
- **Nearly three-quarters of secondary pupils believe that most people their age are aware of how to use the internet safely (72%).** A further three-quarters of secondary pupils believe they are old enough to decide what they should be allowed to do on the internet (75%).
- **Half of secondary pupils (51%) and three-fifths of primary pupils (60%) agree that using a tablet or other device at school every day has made them more aware of using the internet safely.** However, nearly half of secondary pupils (48%) report that many children know how to get around the internet safety restrictions in school.
- **The majority of secondary pupils believe that children access websites they know they should not, but also that they can come across inappropriate content accidentally.** Over half of secondary pupils agree that many children go on websites that they know they should not go on (55%). Nearly three-quarters (73%) of secondary pupils agree that children can quite easily come across inappropriate things on the internet accidentally, while looking for something else.

- **Nine-tenths of secondary pupils say that their school talks to them about being safe online (89%).** According to pupils, schools talk to them about not giving out personal information (95%), not talking to strangers (92%), how to treat others online (78%) and how to report something frightening or upsetting online (72%). Furthermore, over half report that their school talks to them about websites collecting personal data (55%) and how to tell if the information on a website is reliable (51%). Nearly half of secondary pupils say that their school talks to them about how to avoid viruses (46%). Similarly, over nine-tenths of primary pupils say that their schools talks to them about being safe online (94%).
- **Online privacy is an issue for secondary pupils.** Seven-tenths of secondary pupils (70%) are concerned about keeping their details private online, with girls being more concerned about this than boys (74% girls vs. 66% boys).
- **Secondary pupils who use a Tablet at school, at home or both are more concerned about keeping their details private online, suggesting a greater awareness of the importance of internet safety.** Nearly three-quarters (72%) of secondary pupils who use a tablet at home, or at home and school are concerned about keeping their details private online, compared to 65% of secondary pupils who do not use a Tablet.
- Friends do have an influence on online behaviour, but only 12% of secondary pupils agree that they have been told off by their friends for something they should not be doing on the internet.
- Two-fifths (39%) of secondary pupils agree that sometimes they only communicate with their family at home through text messaging or social media.
- In response to the question ‘*what advice would you give to other people your age about keeping safe online?*’ over 5,400 pupils responded. These have been summarised in the ‘Top Ten Tips’ to Stay Safe Online (download from Tablets for Schools [website](#)).

“Think about the consequences before posting anything online. Do not trust people until you see them face to face (always have someone else with you). Do not say anything you wouldn't want to hear yourself. It's easy to lie on the internet.” Girl aged 16

“1) Do not post any personal information online – like your address, email address or mobile number. 2) Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it and may be able to download it, it's not just yours anymore. 3) Keep your privacy settings as high as possible 4) Never give out your passwords 5) Do not befriend people you do not know 6) Do not meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parent or carer about people suggesting you do 7) Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are 8) Think carefully about what you say before you post something online 9) Respect other people's views, even if you do not agree with someone else's views doesn't mean you need to be rude 10) If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried: leave the website, turn off your computer if you want to and tell a trusted adult immediately. Girl aged 12

I would say, change your settings to private and do not post anything personal or any pictures of you online, and when you take a selfie in your school clothes try not to get the school logo in the picture as people can see what school you go to.” Girl aged 11

“Do not go on apps your friends told you to go on because you don’t know what you are going on. If somebody was cyberbullying you (that means you are getting bullied online) tell an adult, do not keep it in.” Girl aged 9

“I would tell them, when on the App store, look at the comments below because there might be a virus on it. Also do not go on Facebook or Twitter till you’re about 16. I’ve not got any of them.” Girl aged 9

5. Use of Internet Filters

- **Only 17% of secondary pupils report that their parents/carers block access to any websites, 54% state that their parents do not do this, and a further 29% are unsure.** Conversely, nearly nine-tenths of secondary pupils say that their school blocks access to certain websites or apps (87%).
- Four-fifths (81%) of primary pupils say that their school stops them from going on some websites/apps when they are using the internet at school.
- **In general, pupils are accepting that there are certain websites that they should not access.** Nearly two-thirds of secondary pupils understand that there are certain websites that they are not allowed to access (65%). Furthermore, three-quarters of primary pupils are happy that there are websites they are not allowed to go on, with three-quarters (76%) agreeing with the statement ‘I’m happy that there are some websites that my parents do not want me to go on’. Primary aged girls are more accepting of this than primary-aged boys (83% girls vs. 68% boys).
- **Primary pupils argue more with their parents about the websites they are allowed to access.** Nearly a quarter of primary pupils argue with parents about website access, with 23% agreeing ‘I sometimes argue with my parents about what websites I am allowed to go on’. This is more common amongst boys (27% boys vs. 20% girls). By contrast, just 11% of secondary pupils agree with the statement ‘my parents and I sometimes argue about what websites I am allowed to go on’.
- **Over four-fifths of secondary pupils know how to change their privacy settings on social networks (84%).** Secondary pupils are using several methods to protect their privacy: using privacy settings on website/apps such as Facebook, Twitter etc. (74%); only accepting friend requests from people they know (69%); not posting personal information online (67%).

“At the back of your diary for changing reading books there is a section on how to keep yourself safe on the internet. If you get sent anything mean tell an adult (a parent) and make sure an adult is in the room and only look on websites you are allowed on.” Boy aged 8

“Learn how the internet works, not just how to use it. Only then can you really be safe online. And you aren't going to know much unless you get into gaming a bit, so play some games, especially games like Minecraft, which really taught me a lot about computers (modding, coding, how software works, even identify complex computer errors and fixing them). Don't get me wrong, there are lots of threats out there, learn how to identify sites which contain viruses (e.g. when torrenting movies because despite it being illegal, everyone does it and do not even try to deny it) and illegitimate sites but schools generally go over the top with privacy because they kind of have to. Ratings are generally 1 rating too high, and do not post naked selfies... Ever. (Duh) Also do not overuse social media, it's really unattractive to be constantly on your phone checking all of your various notifications, secretly competing in an unspoken popularity contest. The internet is about more than looking at your Instagram.” Boy aged 17

“Never post anything too personal. By all means do not be restricted from having a good time but respect that the internet holds some pretty scary stuff. Be smart when on the internet and think about what you are doing.” Boy aged 14

“I would say that if you were addicted to the internet you were also addicted to learning. The internet enables us to learn about our friends, family, government and gives us the ability to figure out what we're interested in and what we aren't.” Girl aged 16