

Monday 16th January 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Online Safety Survey @ St Mary's

Keeping our pupils safe is always a priority at St Mary's school and this extends to the way the children use technology. We recently conducted our annual Online Safety survey with some of our Key Stage 2 children and I wanted to write to share some of our findings with you.

About our survey

- The survey was paper-based and took the opinions of 120 KS2 children.
- All data gathered was completely anonymous.
- The aim of the survey was gain a clearer understanding of how children use technology at home and at school.

Internet access

82%	of the children asked have access to the internet at home, either via a computer or a tablet
26%	of the children said that they needed to ask permission to get online
20%	said they had to have their parents enter a password
35%	of children knew the password and had free access to get onto the internet
28%	Suggested sites were blocked , once they were on.

Using the internet

68%	Homework
40%	Finding information
38%	Downloading or watching music
37.5%	Independently playing online games
32.5%	Online gaming with friends
28%	Using social networking sites
21.6%	Playing games online with people they do not know

Contacting others

44%	Using their mobile phones
42.5%	Texting
31.6%	Instant messaging
31.6%	Online gaming

When accessing online gaming or some instant messaging sites **25%** of the children wrote that they had, in the past, **lied about their age** to access websites such as: 'Minecraft', 'Call of duty', 'Musical.ly', 'Snapchat', 'Twitter', 'Instagram', 'Wassap' and 'Pokemon go'. However, when accessing these sites (and others) a high percentage of children (**66.6%**) circled that they were **aware of how to protect their identity** and **secure their profiles**.

Who do you contact online?

53%	Contacting family
45%	Contacting friends from school
14%	Friends they do not know in the outside world
12.5%	Friends they know offline

A number of children (**23%**) admitted that they had online friends that their **parents were unaware of** and **28%** of these children have **received messages** via text, email or message from these people. In addition, **15.8%** circled that they had felt **upset by some of the messages** they have received and a further **10.8%** of the children circled that they had experienced bullying online. Despite experiencing these difficulties, those children wrote that they had dealt with the situation by either **talking to their parents or deleting the user**.

When asked how they could remain safe using technology at home, the most common responses were that their parents had advised them:

- Not to post inappropriate things
- Similarly, the children wrote that teachers had advised them to **avoid certain websites** and **report anything unusual or upsetting**.

The survey finished by asking the children what information they **shouldn't share online** and nearly every participant responded with **not to share any personal information**.

Online Safety briefing for Parents – Wednesday 8th February 6-6.30pm

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding a parent briefing later this term on Online Safety. The talk will be led by Deb Ferris, an advisor for a number of schools across the local authority. Please feel most welcome to join us on what promises to be an informative event.

If you would like to discuss this survey or any element of online safety then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Frankie Oakley