



Welcome

Welcome to the final termly newsletter this academic year from Danesholme Junior Academy's online safety council. This term the focus was on staying safe online when using social media.

Social Media Survey

The council decided that it would be useful to carry out research across the academy to find out the different activities involving social media sites that our students have been taking part in. It was also decided that some questions about gaming would be worthwhile asking, since many of our students are very keen gamers. The sites we were interested in were;



Social Media Survey Results

In the survey, the children were asked a set of twenty questions regarding the use of these sites and online gaming. There were 318 responses, of which 55% were from boys and 45% were from girls. All year groups were between 75 and 85 pupils. The results were as follows:

1. Use of sites

Youtube is the main site of interest, with 90% of our children using it, followed by Snapchat at 44%, Instagram at 34%, Facebook at 14% and Twitter at 9%. 30% of children are using other forms of social

media sites and only 5% (17 students) of our children do not use any social media sites at all. All of the mentioned sites, including Youtube, have an age restriction of 13 or above but the survey revealed that the majority of students (63%) have their own account on these sites.

2. Profile information

On a positive note, the survey showed that the majority of children are considering their online safety and have set their accounts up with nicknames, non-personal profile photographs and information about them which is fictitious.

3. Privacy settings

49% of children knew what privacy settings were on their account but only 28% were aware that these need to be checked regularly because site updates can force setting changes. This is extremely important to remember since 42% of our networking students are uploading personal photographs and videos to their account.

4. Online friends

The majority of children had between 1 and 50 online friends; however 13% of children stated that they had in excess of 200 friends through these sites and gaming. Most students personally know their online friends but significant numbers are communicating with people online who they don't know.

5. Online gaming

A massive 79% of our children take part in online gaming. Who our children are playing with is; 46% playing with people they actually know, 40% a mixture of personal friends and purely online friends and 14% only playing with online gamers they don't know. The survey revealed that the vast majority of favourite games are age appropriate for our children and there is an equal spread of devices being used from laptops, tablets and games consoles to mobile phones. The more mobile the device didn't seem to affect where most of the online time was spent.

6. Online time

The survey revealed that 51% of students estimate they are spending 2 or more hours per day online; 66% of this is in their bedroom and of all the online students 58% are always on their own when online. Although, almost half the students did answer that their parents were 'sometimes' interested in what they were doing on the internet. 25% of parents always showed interest and equally 25% showed no interest. When asked, 75% of children stated that they enjoy family games and interestingly approximately equal numbers of students enjoyed family time with board games as much as they did with family games involving technology.

In Summary

- There is a huge active interest in social networking.
- Most children are displaying good e-safety practices when setting up their accounts.
- Most children need to be made aware that privacy settings need to be checked regularly.
- Significant numbers of children are communicating with people they have only met online.
- Our children love gaming and are mostly playing age appropriate games.
- Most of our children are using the internet for 2+ hours a day.
- The majority of students are online alone in their bedroom.
- Only 25% parents check their children's online time.
- Half of our children like playing a family game, and half of that group would rather play a non-technology based game.

It is vital that our children are equipped with the skills and knowledge to keep them safe when enjoying their online activities. Many websites will offer top tips and advice to help keep them safe. Some examples are below:

Top 10 Tips for Staying Safe on Social Networks -

<http://www.childinternetsafety.co.uk/hub/top-ten-tips-for-staying-safe-on-social-networks>

Kidscape – Staying Safe on Social Media -

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-young-people/dealing-with-cyber->

Online Safety Talks

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, this term two guest speakers came from Target. The children really engaged with the speakers and many things very relevant to their interest in social networking were highlighted. The speakers covered the issue of age restrictions on the most popular social media sites but the reality is that some of our children are using these sites. Therefore the speakers addressed dangers the children might not be aware of and how to avoid these and keep themselves as safe as possible. Some key points are shared below:

- Privacy settings on Facebook should be set to 'friends only' to keep your account from being accessed by people you don't know. 'Friends of friends' opens your account up to potentially hundreds of people you don't know. Check the settings regularly.
- All images uploaded to any of the social media sites are no longer your property. The images can be legally used by any of the sites for any reason.
- Any uploaded material can never be fully deleted from the internet; it will always remain somewhere online. Be sure you are happy to share it and won't be embarrassed by it later in life.
- When using Snapchat have the settings in your account set to 'Ghost' mode so that your phonebook contacts cannot track where you are.
- When using Twitter or Instagram, don't put hashtags on the end of tweets or posts. Absolutely anyone can see your tweet or post if they search for the word you have used after your #.
- WhatsApp has now been changed to users must be age 16.
- If using a group chat in Whatsapp, make sure anyone you add to it has given you permission because their mobile number will be shared with everyone else in the same group chat.

Finally... a massive thank you to all the ambassadors and the efforts they have made this year to promote online safety through the academy.