Dobcroft Junior School

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Friday 15th November 2024

Online Use and Safety for Children at Dobcroft Junior School
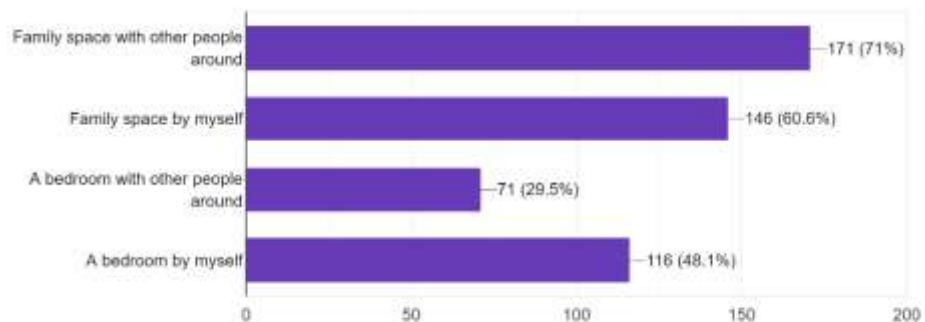
Dear Parents and Carers,

We discuss online use with the children on a regular basis so that we can understand how children are accessing and using the internet at home. This is in order to fully support them in becoming responsible digital citizens.

Some key themes that we would like to share with you are as follows:

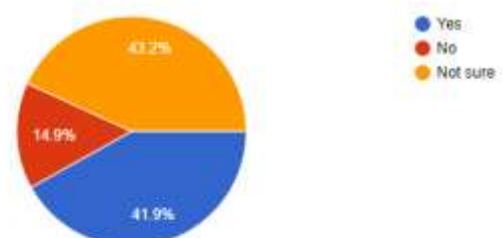|	
At least 61% access the internet by themselves, without adult supervision.	If you have the Internet at home, where in the house do you access it? 241 responses Family space with other people around — 171 (71%) Family space by myself — 146 (60.6%) A bedroom with other people around — 71 (29.5%) A bedroom by myself — 116 (48.1%)

Advice from internetmatters.org is as follows:
- Encourage children to use their tech devices in a shared space like the lounge or kitchen so you can keep an eye on how they're using the internet and also share in their enjoyment.
- Further reading: https://www.dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk/serve_file/3879717

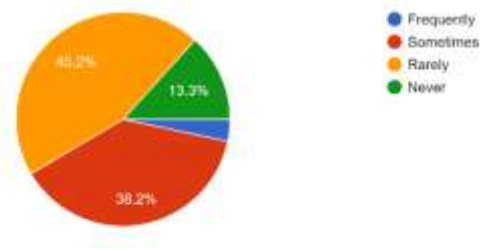|	
15% do not have privacy controls set up on their devices at home. **43% are not sure if there are privacy controls.**	Are there privacy controls set up on the device you use at home? 241 responses Yes — 41.9% No — 14.9% Not sure — 43.2%

Advice from internetmatters.org is as follows:

- Set parental and privacy settings on apps, sites and devices they use and adjust them as they grow.
- Use a child-friendly search engine as the homepage and a family login for sites such as YouTube, which are popular with children at this age or use YouTube Kids to allow them to explore in a safe space and build independence online.
- Getting involved at an early age will make it easier to engage with them as they develop their online identity.
- Knowing about their habits online will allow you to feel comfortable to slowly bring down the safety wall as they get older.
- Further reading: https://www.dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk/serve_file/3879738

59% of children rarely or never talk about the safe rules for internet browsing.	

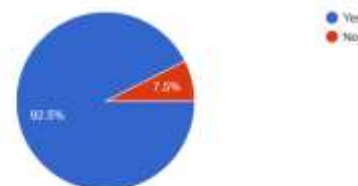Do you talk with adults at home about safe rules for Internet browsing?
241 responses

- internetmatters.org advise teaching your child simple rules for using the internet: these are outlined on page 3 of this link: https://www.dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk/serve_file/3879717

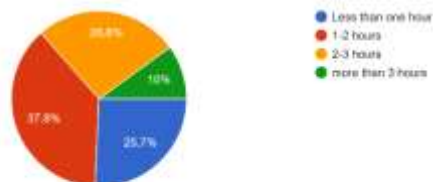| **40% have felt uncomfortable with something they have seen online, but 93% know what to do if they feel uncomfortable.**	
We would like to increase this second figure to 100%.	

Do you know what to do if something or someone made you feel uncomfortable online?
241 responses

- Talk to them about steps they can take if something goes wrong or they feel someone has been treated unfairly.
- Remind them that they can talk to an adult if they are concerned.

37% believe that they use the internet for 2 or more hours a day.	Estimate how much time you spend on the Internet each day. 241 responses ● Less than one hour ● 1-2 hours ● 2-3 hours ● more than 3 hours

Internetmatters.org provides this information about screen time:

The truth about screen time

- Not all screen time is created equal, so it's important to encourage children to have a healthy balance between passive screen time (i.e watching YouTube) and interactive screen time (i.e. creating content or playing games online).

- There is no safe level of screen time but it doesn't mean that all screen time is harmful. Lack of evidence has meant that experts have found it hard to recommend a cut-off for children screen time overall. One size does not fit all when it comes to screen time – it's more about getting it right for your family's needs.

For further reading, please follow this link: https://www.dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk/serve_file/3879736

An ever growing resource of online safety content is on our school website and can be accessed here: https://www.dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk/page/online-safety/59158 Thank you for your continued support - together, we can make a difference in supporting the children to become responsible digital citizens.

Kind regards,

Paul Harrison
Assistant Headteacher