

## Children's Online Content Worksheet

### Introduction sheet for Parents and Teachers

### Background

As the UK's communications regulator, we make sure people get the best from their communications services. We have a duty, under the Communications Act 2003, to promote and carry out research in media literacy. Media literacy enables people to have the skills, knowledge and understanding to make full use of the opportunities presented by both traditional and new communications services.

As part of this work, we conduct research into how children aged 3-15 use and think about media, including the internet. We also talk to their parents and carers about the different ways they keep their children safe when they use media. Our research findings are published in our annual report '**Children and parents: media use and attitudes**'. The most recent can be read, along with our other research, at <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/medialiteracy>.

### What is the worksheet about?

In collaboration with Childnet<sup>1</sup>, a charity working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children, we've created a worksheet for children aged 8-11. The worksheet focuses on *when and how children go online, and what they see when they do*. This supports our work with Safer Internet Day 2017<sup>2</sup>, and its theme of *images*.

Children are surrounded by lots of different images every day. To understand what images and content they see, we asked them what types of things they look at, and what they would do if they saw something worrying or nasty. The worksheet shows children the results from our research, and encourages them to consider their own online use and what is appropriate for their age group. They can be used in school, or at home with parents, and can help to prompt important discussions about being safe online.

### Useful resources

The following websites provide useful advice on helping children stay safe online:

**Childnet:** <http://www.childnet.com/>

**Safer Internet Day:** <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

**CEOP:** <http://ceop.police.uk/About-Us/>

**Media Smart:** <http://mediasmart.uk.com/>

**Get Safe Online:** <https://www.getsafeonline.org/>

**NSPCC Net Aware:** <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/#>

**Internet Matters:** <http://www.internetmatters.org/>

**Thinkuknow:** <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>



**Safer Internet Day 2017** takes place on Tuesday 7th February, with the theme 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the celebration sees hundreds of schools and organisations join together to raise awareness of online safety issues and run events and activities right across the UK.

Find out more and get involved! [www.saferinternetday.org.uk](http://www.saferinternetday.org.uk) #SID2017

<sup>1</sup> Childnet: <http://www.childnet.com/>

<sup>2</sup> Safer Internet Day 2017: [www.saferinternetday.org.uk](http://www.saferinternetday.org.uk)

# What do you see when you go online?

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

We are surrounded by images every day on our mobile phones, tablets, computers and TVs. Pictures and video are a great way to inspire others, remember good times and share important moments but is this all that you see when you go online?

To understand what images and content children in the UK are seeing, we asked them what types of things they look at when they are online.

How do you and your classmates compare with the children aged 8-11 from our survey?

## Key to icons



TV



Computer



Tablet



Games console



Mobile phone

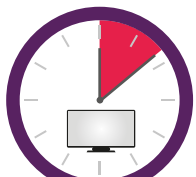


Internet

## INTRODUCTION

1

On an average school day 8-11 year olds spend almost as long online as they do watching TV.



1h 42m



1h 36m



1h 06m

Does this seem like a lot to you?

.....  
Which one do you think you spend the most time doing?

.....

## GOING ONLINE

2

Children aged 8-11 spend more time at the weekend online, than they do on a school day.

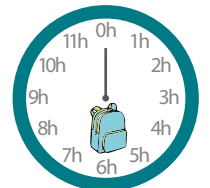


Weekend  
2h 30m

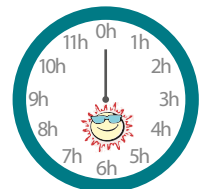


School day  
1h 36m

How much time do you think you spend online on an average school day? *(fill in the clock)*



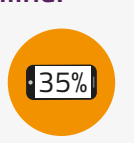
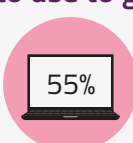
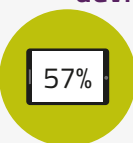
Is this more or less than you would spend on a weekend day?



Discuss the reasons why these might be different.

3

Tablets and laptops are their favourite devices to use to go online.



20%



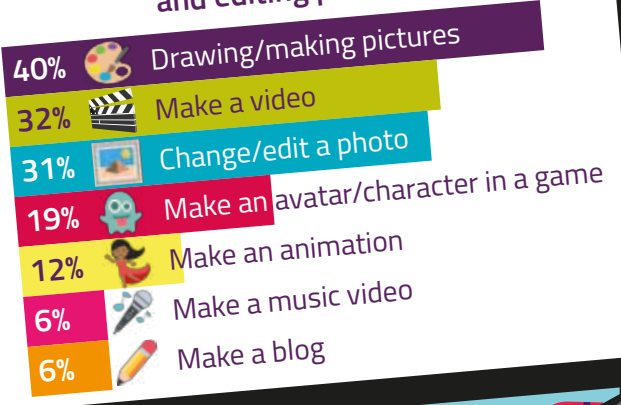
Which devices do you use?

.....  
.....

Which is your favourite, and why?

.....  
.....

**4** Their favourite online creative activities are: drawing and making pictures, making videos and editing photos.

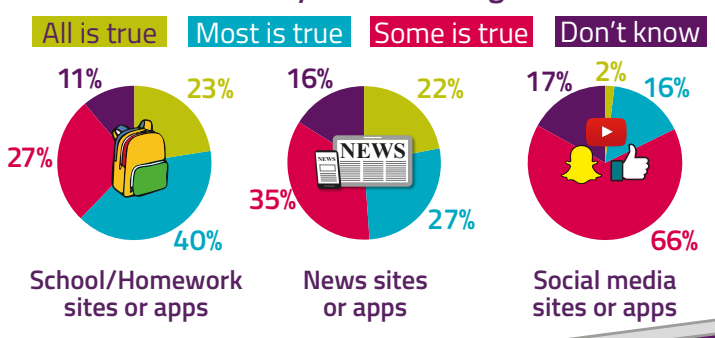


Have you done any of these things online?  
Draw or write your favourite one here:

How does doing these things make you feel?  
Pick one or two emoji's ...



**5** Children use a lot of websites to gather information. Of the following types of websites and apps, our 8-11 year olds thought ...



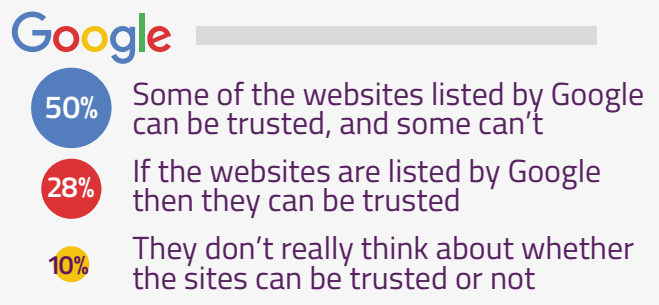
Many websites contain true information, but knowing how to decide which information is true is a key skill. Do you think all of the information you see on these sites/apps is true?

	All is true	Some is true	Most is true
School/homework sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
News sites & apps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Media sites & apps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What can you do to check if the information you see is true?

Some of the things you can do both online and offline to check information are:  
1: Check other websites  
2: Check books  
3: Talk to someone

**6** Half of 8-11 year olds thought that some of the websites listed by Google can be trusted, but that some cannot.

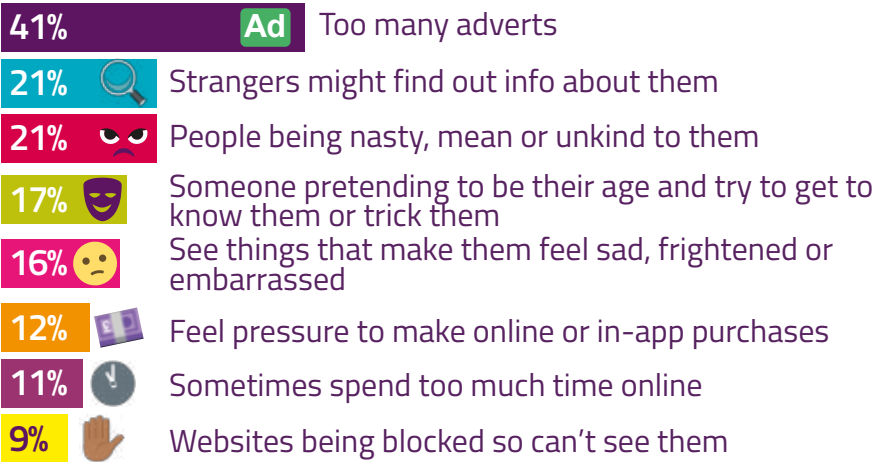


Do you trust everything you see on Google?

When you search on Google, how do you decide which link to click?

Why do some websites appear at the top of a Google search?  
Does this make them more trustworthy?

The main thing that 8-11 year olds don't like about being online is that there are too many adverts.



Which things do you not like about being online?

.....

.....

Which things would you stop if you could?

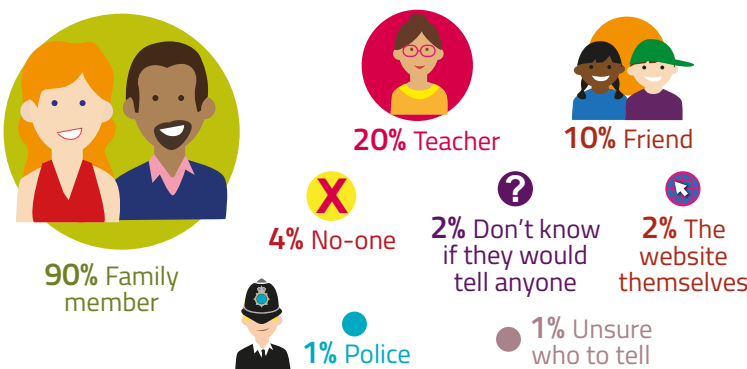
.....

.....

How do these things make you feel? Pick one or two emoji's ...



Nearly all of our 8-11 year olds said they would tell a family member if they saw something worrying, nasty, or offensive online.



It is very important to talk to someone if you see something online that you don't like, or that worries you.

Would you tell someone? Who would you tell?

.....

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

What kinds of images do you see on the internet? *(These can be cartoons, pictures, photos, or videos)*

Do you ever 'share' images that you see on your mobile or computer? What kinds of things, and who do you share them with?

Do you ever create photos, pictures or videos and post them online? Do these get shared by anyone else?

Do you think everything you see on the internet is appropriate for your age group? What kinds of things do you think are not appropriate?

Why do you think it is important to tell someone if you see something on the internet that you find worrying, confusing or nasty?

What good things do you see online? Do you ever see things which inspire you?

**9** Nearly three-quarters of 8-11 year olds said they have ever used the YouTube website or app.



Have you ever used the website or app? .....

What do you like about YouTube?

.....  
 .....

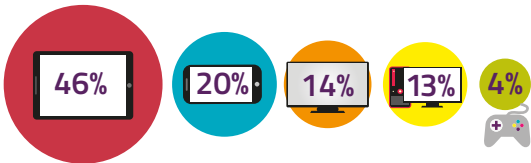
Which devices have you ever used to watch YouTube?

.....  
 .....

Which devices do you prefer to use?

.....

**10** A tablet was the most popular device to watch YouTube on.



Do you watch any of these? .....

Which are your favourites? .....

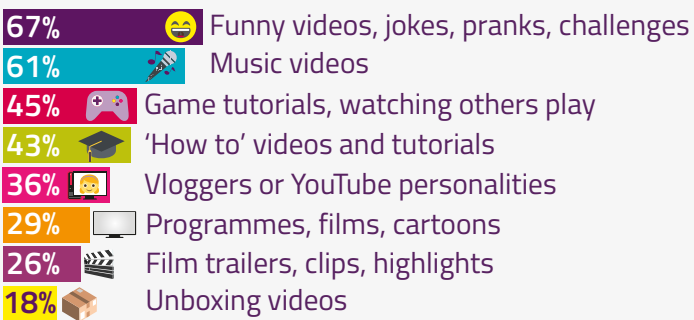
.....

Draw your favourite character or video

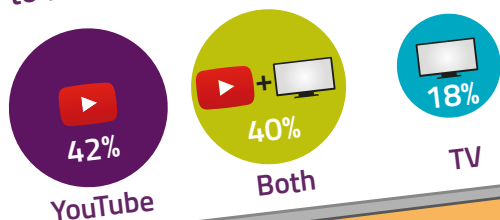
How does watching YouTube make you feel? Pick one or two emoji's ...



**11** The most popular things to watch on YouTube were funny videos, jokes, pranks and challenges.



**12** Four in ten 8-11 year olds said they preferred to watch YouTube than watching TV



Which do you prefer to watch?

.....

Why is that?

.....

.....

.....

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

What kinds of images do you see on YouTube?

Do you ever see anything you think is inappropriate for children your age on YouTube?

Do you think there should be rules in place so your age group cannot see these things?

What are the good things about watching YouTube? Have you ever learned anything from what you have seen?

# GAMING ONLINE

Games can be played on media devices, such as mobile phones, tablets, games consoles, or TV.

13

Children aged 8-11 said they spent more time playing games at the weekend, than they do on a school day

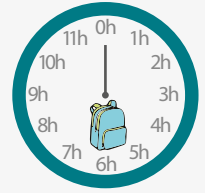
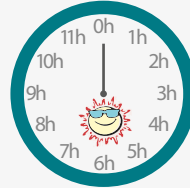


Weekend  
1h 54m



School day  
1h 06m

How much time do you think you spend playing games on an average school day?



Is this more or less than you would spend on a weekend day?

Why is that? .....

14

A games console was the most popular device to play games on.



57%



42%



26%



25%



25%

Circle your favourite devices to play games on.



What is your favourite game to play?

15

Nearly seven in ten 8-11 year olds said they play games online.

68%  
Play  
online



32%  
Don't play  
online

Playing games online is when you are connected to the internet, and some games allow you to work with or play against others while online.

Do you play games online? .....

Draw a picture, or write a description, of your favourite game or character.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

What kinds of images do you see when you are gaming? Are there any that might concern you?

When you are using online games do you connect with other players? Are these friends that you know offline, like school friends, neighbours, etc.?

Do you ever play with 'online friends' – players that you have never met?

It's very important to know that a friend you only know online is a stranger. So you must not meet up with them in person, share images or videos with them, or any personal information.

Do you think it is OK to talk to players online that you don't know? If not, why?

What do you think are the good things about playing games – both offline and online?



# STAY SAFE ONLINE

Use these links to find out more about how to be safe when online:

Childnet: [www.childnet.com/young-people](http://www.childnet.com/young-people)

Childline: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

MediaSmart: [www.mediasmart.uk.com/young-people](http://www.mediasmart.uk.com/young-people)

ThinkuKnow: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)



**Safer  
Internet  
Day 2017** | Tuesday  
7 February

Be the change; Unite for a better internet

[www.saferinternetday.org.uk](http://www.saferinternetday.org.uk)



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Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the celebration sees hundreds of schools and organisations join together to raise awareness of online safety issues and run events and activities right across the UK. As a result of our collective action Safer Internet Day 2016 reached 2.8 million UK children and 2.5 million UK parents.

**Find out more and get involved!**

[www.saferinternetday.org.uk](http://www.saferinternetday.org.uk)

**#SID2017**

## ABOUT THIS WORKSHEET

Research source: *Ofcom Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2016*  
<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/medialiteracy>

Various emojis and icons provided free by <http://emojione.com>