

December 2017

1. Making Britain the safest place in the world to be online

Britain is to become the safest place in the world to be online thanks to new proposals announced today by Culture Secretary Karen Bradley.

Cracking down on dangers like cyberbullying, trolling and under-age access to porn, the Government's Internet Safety Strategy proposes:

- A new social media code of practice to see a joined-up approach to remove or address bullying, intimidating or humiliating online content
- An industry-wide levy so social media companies and communication service providers contribute to raise awareness and counter internet harms
- An annual internet safety transparency report to show progress on addressing abusive and harmful content and conduct
- And support for tech and digital startups to think safety first - ensuring that necessary safety features are built into apps and products from the very start

In the past year, almost one fifth of 12-15 year olds encountered something online that they 'found worrying or nasty in some way' and 64% of 13-17 year olds have seen images or videos offensive to a particular group.

Nearly half of adult users also say they have seen something that has upset or offended them on social media. The Internet Safety Green Paper aims to tackle these growing dangers, while continuing to embrace the huge benefits and opportunities the Internet has brought for British citizens .

Also published today: Children's online activities, risks and safety: A literature review by the UKCCIS Evidence Group. To be found on the UKCCIS webpage

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/internet-safety-strategy-green-paper>

For more information about e safety :

- go to <http://www.blackpoolaspireacademy.co.uk>
- come into school and talk to a member of Student Services

2. Children's online activities, risks and safety December 2017 : A literature review by the UKCCIS Evidence Group

Main findings:

Children's use of the internet is changing fast, in response to considerable societal, market and technological innovation. Use depends in part on the children's gender, age and socioeconomic status (SES), and varies in the location, devices and frequency with which they access it.

The 2012 UKCCIS Evidence Group's review noted that the amount (frequency, duration) of internet use had increased, including among younger children, over the previous years. By 2017, it appears that the proportion of children using the internet has reached a plateau: a recent survey by Childwise (2017) of 1,936 children aged 5-16 in Autumn 2016 found that 94% reported using the internet at all – 91% of 5- to 10-year-olds and 98% of 11- to 16-year-olds.

While the percentage of children using the internet has barely changed over the past five years, the amount of time they spend online continues to rise steadily. Ofcom's survey of 1,375 parents and children aged 5-15 using in-home interviews and 684 interviews with parents of children aged 3-4 (in Spring 2016) found that, among those who use the internet, weekly hours online have risen from over 9 hours in 2007 to around 15 hours for 5- to 15-year-olds in 2016, with even the 3- to 4- year-olds who go online doing so for some 8 hours per week.

The device favoured to access the internet has also changed in recent years. By 2016 the rapid rise of the tablet made it the preferred device for younger children, with the smartphone still preferred among teenagers.

Other devices for internet access are also used, but less commonly (Childwise, 2017; Ofcom, 2016a; WISEKIDS, 2014). It seems that the tablet has become a key device for both personal and shared entertainment at home among younger children, but when children move from primary to secondary school, gaining their own smartphone becomes a priority

Link: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/650933/Literature_Review_Final_October_2017.pdf