Headteacher: Mrs K. Lee BA Hon, N.P.Q.H.
Woodfield Road
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY3 8LU
01743 357133
www.stgeorgesjunior.org.uk
admin@st-georges-jun.shropshire.sch.uk

Dear parents/carers,

With the ever-growing presence of online activity, we recently conducted an anonymous questionnaire to gage an understanding of our pupils' use of the internet and social media.

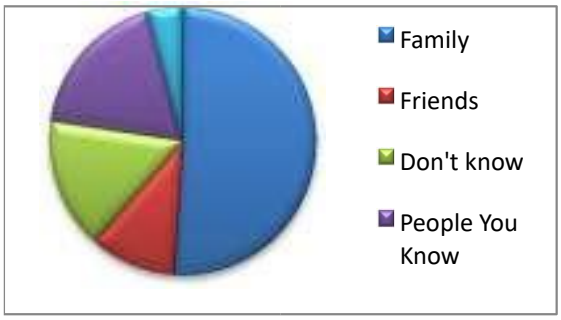
Here are our results:

Do you know the age limit of Social Media sites?



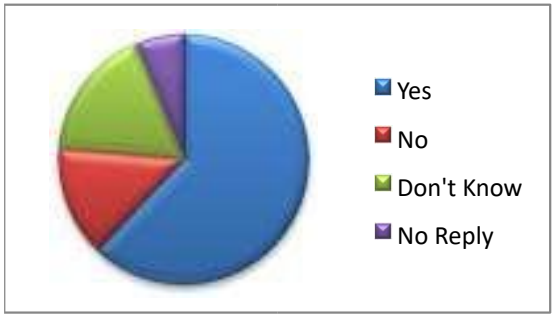
Yes	66%
No	15%
Don't know	18%
No Reply	1%

If you are on these sites, who do you send photos to?



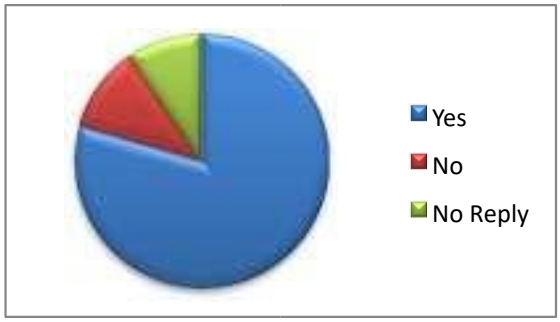
Family	51%
Friends	11%
Don't know	16%
People You Know	18%
No Reply	4%

When on these sites do you know who you are talking to?



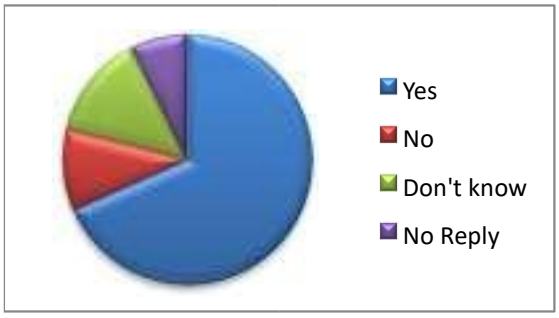
Yes	62%
No	14%
Don't Know	17%
No Reply	6%

Do your parents know who you are talking to?



Yes	79%
No	11%
No Reply	9%

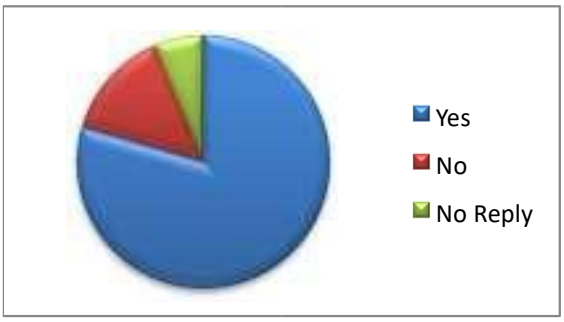
Would you know who to talk to if you were uncomfortable using these sites?



Yes	68%
No	11%
Don't know	14%
No Reply	7%

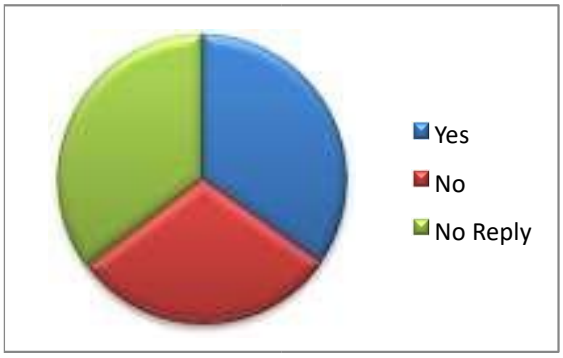
Do you play online games?

Yes	80%
No	14%
No Reply	6%



Do you know who you are playing against?

Yes	35%
No	30%
No Reply	35%



We audited the most used social media sites:

Facebook - messaging, chat, personal information	40%
Twitter (X) - messaging, chat , personal information	1%
Snapchat - instant text and photo messaging	35%
Whatsapp - instant text and photo messaging	14%
Instagram - photo sharing	33%
Other	15%

Is your child ready?
The age of your child as well as their developmental stage and maturity can affect their ability to have a safe and positive experience of social media.

Minimum age requirements
Most of the popular social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age before they can register, although some sites are created especially for children under 13 (see Internet Matters' Social networks made for children).
The age requirements are there because of data protection laws. Online services are not allowed to collect or store children's personal information if they are under the age of 13. Data protection laws also say that only children aged 13 and over can sign up to online services without parental permission. Following the age restrictions sets a good example for your child. Although the age requirement doesn't always mean the site is inappropriate for children to use, it's a good indication, especially for younger children.

Development and maturity
It's important to think about your child's current social and emotional skills and their maturity. This will help you to decide if they can deal with the pressures, risks, emotions and unpredictable nature of using social media and use it responsibly.
Here are some things to think about, with your child, when making the decision.

What are their social skills like?
Social media is a great way to stay in touch with friends, but children who struggle with social interaction offline, may find online friendships difficult. There are fewer visual cues online, so it can be difficult to tell if something is inappropriate. Added to this, the boundaries of what is acceptable behaviour might be very different online to offline. Children who struggle with self-regulation or peer pressure, may not be ready yet.

How do they deal with negative experiences?
As outlined in the risks above, children may see or experience things they don't want to on social media, including embarrassing pictures, mean comments, and inappropriate content and people. If your child gets very upset or anxious because of a negative experience, they may not be ready yet.

Will they come to you if they need help?
When they set up their social media account, you will probably want to come to an agreement about how they use it and supervise their online activity. But you also want them to feel they can come to you, if they are ever worried about something they have experienced on social media. If you are worried that your child won't come to you, if they need help, they may not be ready yet.

You can find our more about how to be social media ready through the CEOP website.

Through regular updates at school: circle time, assemblies, guest speakers, PSHE and RSE lessons, we do our best to provide our children with the awareness and knowledge they need in order to recognise and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful behaviour and to respond appropriately. However, it is only through a collaborative effort between parents and teachers that we will succeed in creating responsible and safe cyber citizens.

We recommend that all parents visit the CEOP website and our online safety newsletters for more information on keeping your child safe online.

Thank you for your co-operation

Miss C Worley
St George's Junior School

Deputy Headteacher
St George's Junior School
Woodfield Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 8LU
01743 357133
charlotte.worley@stgeorges.empowermat.co.uk
https://stgeorgesjunior.org.uk