

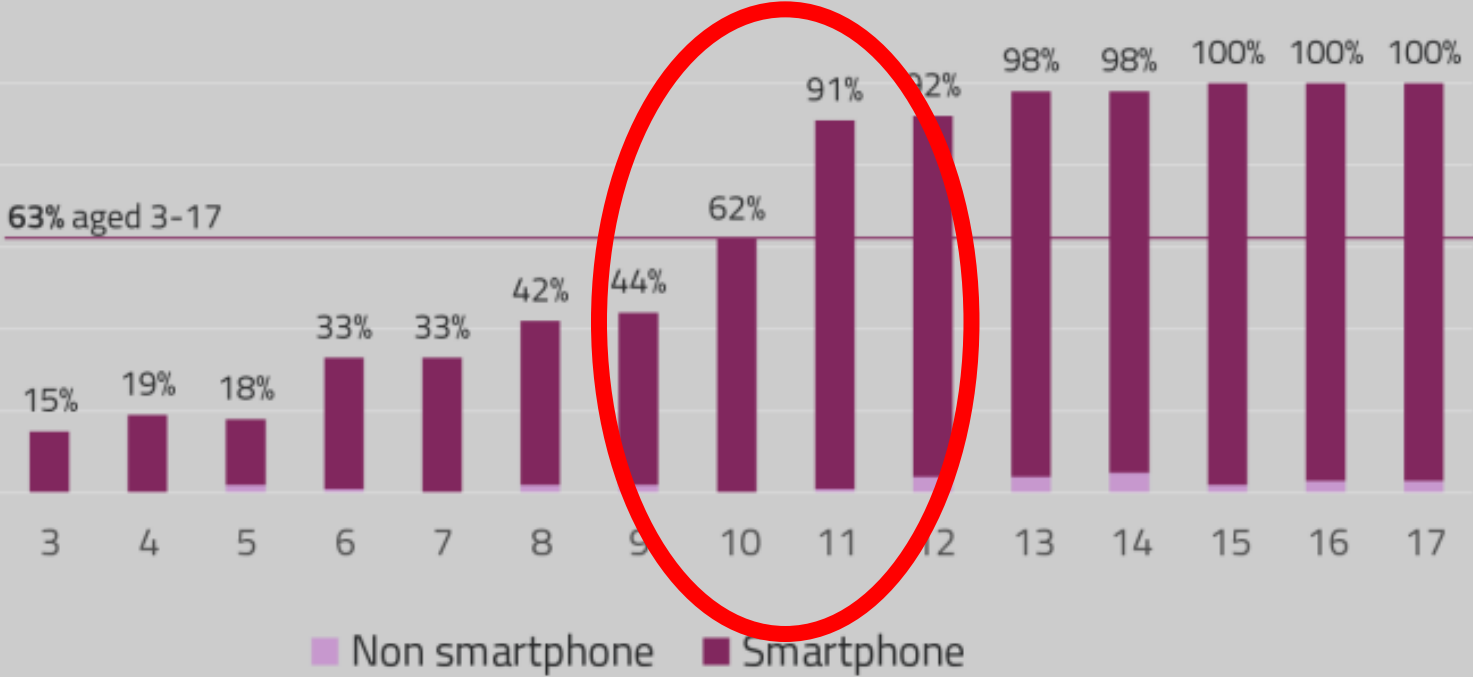


# Moving to secondary school

## What online challenges do children face?

- Managing new and existing friendships on social
- Spending too much time online
- Online peer pressure to follow 'digital rules' to fit in
- Coping with cyberbullying

# Mobile phone ownership by age



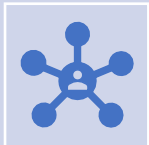
# Our children are **Digital Experts**...we are **Digital Novices**



It's a time when children are beginning to **make deeper social connections** for the first time and learning how to **interact with each other online** which can be overwhelming.



**The Smartphone becomes a status symbol** and an important tool to stay connected to their friends but it also puts them under **pressure to interact**.



School interactions with friends **cross over into the online world** and at times it can be challenging to balance this with school work and other activities.

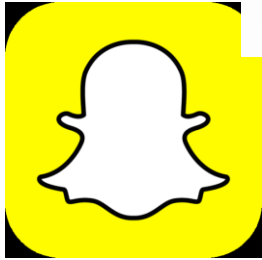
# What risks and challenges does your child face?



- **As your child becomes more active online, the probability that they will face an online issue increases.**
- 60% of children in early years of secondary school experience a range of peer-to-peer online threats from being ridiculed in a group chat to harassment on social media\*.
- *\*Source: University of Suffolk Online peer-to-peer abuse report – June 2018*
- Other risks include sexting, cyber-bullying, online reputation, radicalisation and online grooming.



Age requirement for Whatsapp is 16+

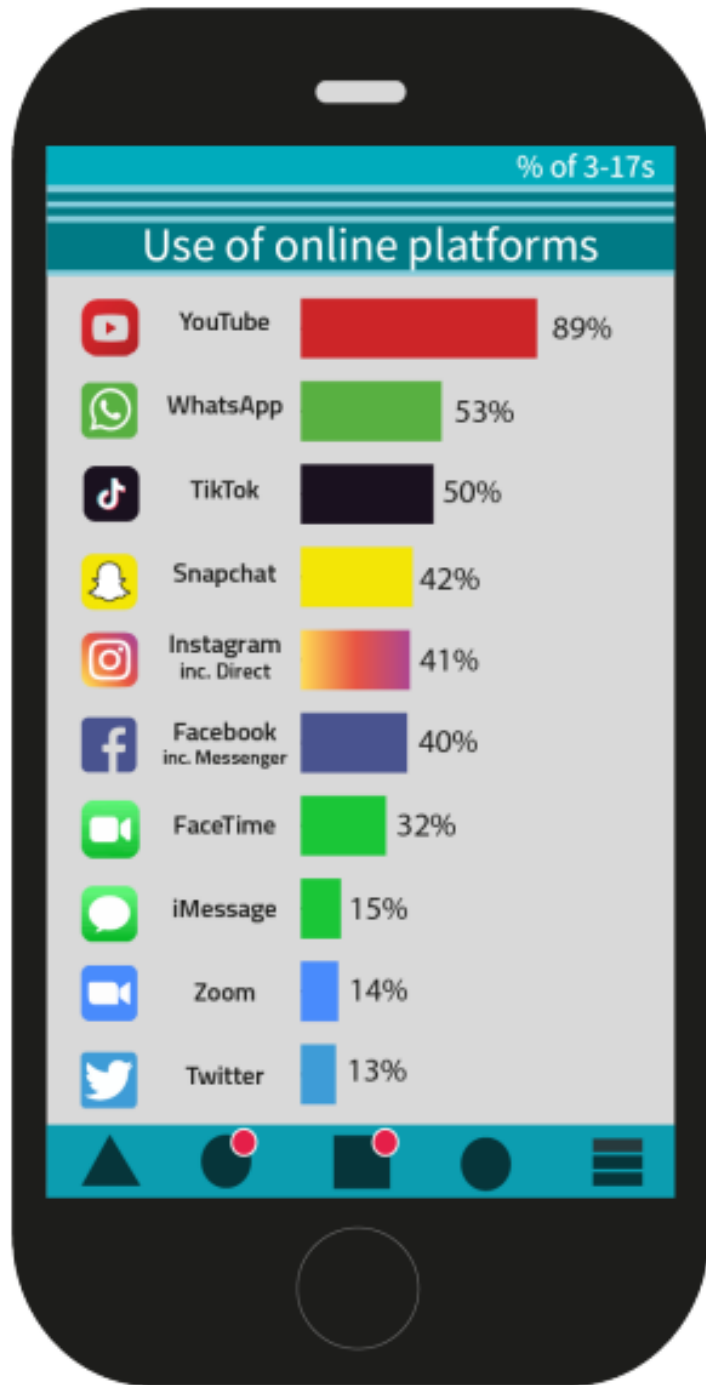


***How many of these Apps are you familiar with?***

**Most apps have a minimum age of 13 or 16**

*'Our children are Digital Experts...we are Digital Novices'*

**Make sure you keep up to date with what your child is accessing online.** <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/social-media-guides>



# Most used platforms in 2021

Source: Ofcom Children and parents: media use and attitudes report March 2022. Aged 3-17



## SVC and social media




**The legal age for using social media in this country is 13.**

Therefore, we as a school cannot condone the use of social media in year 7 under any circumstances.

Any questions or concerns about social media use should therefore be directed to the site owners or, if required, the police.



## SVC and social media



**The only exception to this is Whatsapp, where the legal age for use is 16.**

This means that SVC cannot condone use of this site for the vast majority of students in the school.

Once again, if your child uses the site and has issues on it, you should report them to the site or the police.



# SVC and social media

If a student comes to report an issue with social media, we will take the following action:

- If the issues are happening within school hours or on the school site, we will take the necessary information, liaise with other house teams as needed, and then respond in line with our behaviour policy as we would with any other issue between students.
- However, if the issues are not present in school, **we cannot sanction students**. We will inform home and educate the students about their misuse of social media.

# Things to consider...

## **Snapchat -**

One of the sites key functions is in fact is biggest cause of concern: snaps delete after 24 hours meaning that there is no clear way of evidencing a video being sent but it will have potentially been seen by hundreds of people.

## **Whatsapp -**

These conversations are end-to-end encrypted. This means the conversations are hidden and unable to be proved unless screenshots are taken.

Alongside this, being part of a group is a risk because if you open a chat having been sent a message, photo, video or link, you are then responsible for its content. The site also features an autosave function as standard, meaning the content shared is automatically saved to your camera roll.



## SVC and social media

We appreciate that young people will use social media.

We also accept that many parents will allow the use of these sites despite the age limits and risks.


We will do what we can to support, but we need to make it clear that we have little power to tackle social media companies when the site has been misused or its services abused.

This is the job of the police.





## SVC and social media



In simple terms, if your child is suffering sexual abuse online or receives inappropriate material, your first port of call should be the police.

## The Risks

There are numerous reasons for social media being a positive influence for young people, but the risks are present, and they can impact anyone, even someone at SVC.



# What can you do as a parent?

- ✓ **Put yourself in control – make sure you know how to set parental controls** ([www.google.co.uk/safetycentre](http://www.google.co.uk/safetycentre) or <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-your-home-internet-provider>) .
- ✓ **Agree boundaries and have a discussion around internet safety**
- ✓ **Check if it's suitable**
- ✓ **Teach your child some simple rules about how to stay safe online and how to say 'no'.**
- ✓ **Know how to report concerns about sexual abuse and grooming online**

For more information, please go to [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

Read the parental guides sent out with the weekly bulletin

*Please remember, if you have any safeguarding concerns speak to a member of staff.*

