E-Safety Information Evening

Mr Norris - Principal

How do you feel about your child's use of the online world?

- Worried?

- Powerless?

- Confused?

- A mixture of all of the above?

Our kids are growing up in a different world

- We used to 'go online' – they are permanently connected

- They have technology in their pockets way beyond the computers we grew up with

- At the touch of a button, they can share pictures, videos, comments that can never be retrieved.

Purposes of the session

- To share information about some common issues faced by young people online

- To share some resources/websites you can use to further your own knowledge

- To share the school's approach to dealing with online issues
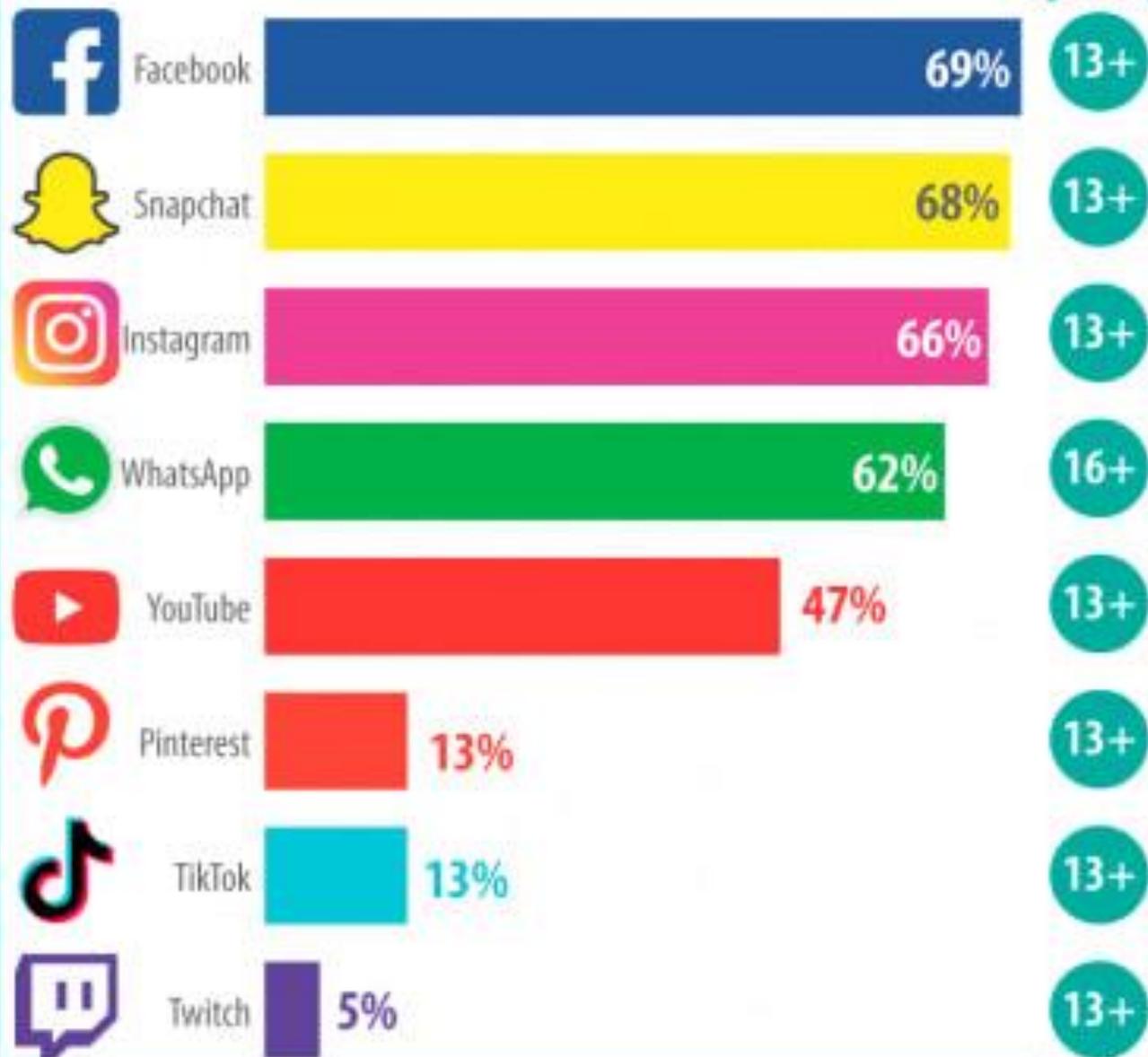
- To try not to scare you ☺

Staying safe – the basics

- Make sure your child has secure passwords and appropriate settings on for privacy

- Look at the minimum ages for apps

- Remind students that digital footprints last forever

- Students should know who their friends are!

- Never meet up with someone you only know online

% of 12 -15 year-olds with a social media profile

Official age rating

Platform	%	Age rating
Facebook	69%	13+
Snapchat	68%	13+
Instagram	66%	13+
WhatsApp	62%	16+
YouTube	47%	13+
Pinterest	13%	13+
TikTok	13%	13+
Twitch	5%	13+

Source: Ofcom

What can I do to help my child?

- Talk to them about their social media use

- Make sure you understand and are happy with what each app they have on their phone does

- Regulate their screen time – ensure they are having some down time

- Have clear rules – who pays for the phone? If it's you, then it's perfectly reasonable for you to have some ground rules

- Make sure they know that you will help them if they get into bother online

Cyberbullying

- Excluding a child from online games, activities or friendship groups

- Sending threatening, upsetting or abusive messages

- Creating and sharing embarrassing or malicious images or videos

- 'Trolling' - sending menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games

- Setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child

- Creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name.

How the school responds to cyberbullying

- If online behaviour causes upset or difficulty in school, we will take action.

- If your child tells you about something that has upset them online, do the following:

- **Take screenshots**

- **Send these to the school**

- **Leave the group in which the comments/items were shared.**

Image sharing

- We have already had some issues with inappropriate images being shared between students on group chats

- Make sure your child feels confident to tell you about any images they receive that make them uncomfortable

- Sending indecent images to others can get very serious, very quickly

Sexting

- This is the sharing of nude or indecent images, normally of themselves, to others

- Young people, most frequently girls, are put under pressure to send images

- Once one image has been shared, it is often used as blackmail to ensure other images will be shared

- This happens earlier than you would like to imagine ☹

How can I stop my child sexting?

- Tell them the truth

- Sharing nude or indecent images of under 18s, even if it is of themselves, is illegal

- Repeatedly requesting or demanding images is **coercive, aggressive and unacceptable behaviour**, even if it is in a relationship

- Once an image is shared, you lose all control of it

- The only way to be truly safe is to NEVER share an image of yourself or someone else

There are real dangers out there

- In 2021/22, there were 6,156 Sexual Communication with a Child offences[3], an increase on the previous year and almost 120 offences per week on average.

- Four in five (82%) of grooming cases last year, where the gender was known, were against girls, with 12 to 15 year old girls making up 39% of all victims, where the age and gender was recorded[4]

How do groomers contact children?

- Meta-owned platforms were used in 38% of offences where the means of communication was known. However, Snapchat was used by groomers more than any other platform, in a third of offences where a site was recorded (33%)[5]

- Grooming is increasingly becoming a cross-platform problem, with police recording 70 different apps and games involved in grooming crimes in the last 12 months alone.

Give children the tools they need to help themselves

- Kids need to know that there is ALWAYS a positive way out of a situation

- If they absolutely can't share it face to face, they can use the following:

- worried@weldonva.org

- CEOP

- Childline 0800 1111