theCybersurvey

By

Youthworks

established 2008

Dear colleague,

February 2023

RE: Online safety and wellbeing

We are delighted to be able to invite your school to participate in the annual Cybersurvey this year. This is the most comprehensive survey on the digital lives and wellbeing of young people. With a range of reports and research papers developed from it. We believe it is vital to hear from young people regularly as their online lives change so dramatically. There are no costs to schools and both schools and students are anonymous.

What is it?

Since 2008 the annual Cybersurvey has provided schools with vital insights for safeguarding, online safety education and student wellbeing. It is an online survey for students 11-16 which explores their digital experiences and what might influence their digital lives. It is updated for current concerns.

What is produced

A detailed survey report is produced along with briefing papers and infographics. Past reports can be viewed on www.thecybersurvey.co.uk/gallery

Quality

Our work has been widely recognised and our report 'Vulnerable Children in a Digital World' published in partnership with Internet Matters, is referred to in the 'Teaching Online Safety in Schools' guidance. Adrienne Katz who leads the Cybersurvey, is a CPD accredited trainer and a member of the Association of Adult and Child Online Safety Specialists. She is author of three books on online safety in schools.

What do we explore?

We are interested in the whole ecology of the young person's online life and emotional health. Understanding the motivations and drivers for their online behaviour will inform services and education to respond effectively. We look at how they feel most of the time, what they do online,

what is positive for them and whether they encounter risks and harms. We explore these topics through gender, age and offline vulnerability. This results in one of the most detailed and informative dives into the online life of our young people.

Practical FAQs

What age group is the Cybersurvey intended for?

Ages 11-16+

How does The Cybersurvey cater for different age groups within this wide band?

Younger respondents are routed through a shorter age-appropriate version, while teenagers aged 13+ respond to a wider range of questions.

How long do we have to complete it?

Until the end of . If you need time in early January let us know.

Safeguarding: Student's responses are anonymous, but the IP address is listed, and the school code is logged along with gender and age. Schools are asked to take a register of who is on the survey with the date and time. This is so that we can contact the school if a student tells us something of concern. These occasions are rare, but it is vital. Please have them sign a register.

How do we know what our school code is?

We provide this to you with your weblink after you have signed up online.

How can we see the questions in advance?

Schools can view the questionnaire in advance when given the weblink, by entering the word 'test' in question 1, in the box intended for your school code. This enables us to remove these entries.

Can many students do it at the same time?

Yes, there is no limit to the number using the survey at the same time, it will be accessible via computers or tablets. It may take them fourteen minutes, but some will finish much earlier.

GDPR. The survey is GDPR compliant and no names of schools or students are used within the dataset. The anonymous data will be shared with the University of Kingston Dept of Psychology and by signing up to participate, you are agreeing to this.

When will we see the results?

The first key messages will be issued by Easter with a detailed report following in the summer.

What is the focus of the Cybersurvey this year?

Since 2017 we have identified vulnerable groups, whose offline experiences were influencing their online life. While continuing this line of research, this year we will be looking at young people's views of their internet experiences and the impacts. We will include the power of influencers and misogyny. The wide range of other issues we study remain consistent, including cyberbullying, relationships, harmful content and online conduct. (We explored changes brought about by the pandemic in 2020.) We are interested in how children become resilient and digitally competent, how they think critically about information and what happens when they turn to an adult for help**.**

What do we have to do to sign up?

Simply sign up for the Cybersurvey and we will have everything ready for your school. We are keen to get responses from whole classes or year groups, not simply a handpicked few who do not represent all abilities and a range of views. This is very important.

We need the school name and at least two staff contacts and the most appropriate way of reporting any safeguarding concern. Please indicate the lead person, any other names, an email you would like us to use and a phone number. We will write back with your instructions and unique school code.

Young people are volunteers

They do not have to do the survey if they do not want to, but we are very grateful for their responses if they do so. Reasonable adjustments can be made to help those who require the questions read to them but their answers must be their own.

SIGN UP FORM

Please email youthcybersurvey@gmail.com if you have any questions or problems signing up.

Thank you for considering this vital survey. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Adrienne Katz

Director