Insights from Internet Matters tracker survey
June 2022

About our tracker survey:

• Conducted **twice a year** with a representative sample of **1,000 UK children aged 9-16** and **2,000 parents**.

• Enables us to analyse **trends over time** and to **compare responses by child’s age, gender, vulnerabilities** (e.g. special educational needs) and more.

• Also enables us to analyse **differences in what parents and children are reporting**.

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Key findings from the latest wave

**Time spent online**

- Children spend a significant amount of time online: on average **3h 48m** on weekdays, and **4h 54m** each weekend day. That means that in a typical week, children are spending more than one complete day online.

- Parents underestimate how much time children are spending online by around **one hour**.

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**Top five platforms used regularly by children**

- **YouTube**: 67%
- **Netflix**: 64%
- **WhatsApp**: 58%
- **TikTok**: 55%
- **Disney+**: 47%
There is significant and widespread concern among parents about the dangers of the internet

- Parents are particularly concerned about their children spending too much time online, contact with strangers and online bullying.
- Many of the risks that parents are concerned about fall into the category of "legal but harmful", suggesting the continued importance of this aspect of the Online Safety Bill.

Even though parental concern is high, parents underestimate the extent to which children are having negative experiences online

- In particular, children are much more unsure about how to distinguish between what is true and false online than parents think they are.
- The gap between children’s responses on the one hand and parents’ responses on the other shows that there is still more to do to educate parents about children’s online lives.

![Proportion somewhat concerned or very concerned](image)

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This is just a snapshot of our survey findings. For further information and insight please contact Simone Vibert, Head of Policy: simone.vibert@internetmatters.org