



What My Parents Don't Know About My Use of Social Media

At Brookside Primary School, we are committed to helping children ensure that they use technology safely and that they are aware of the dangers and pitfalls to using the internet and social media; we include these areas in all aspects of e-safety in our curriculum across school. As part of our work with the children in Y5 and 6, we asked them, as part of a survey, to tell us what their parents didn't know about their use of social media. Below are the anonymous responses and very eye-opening many of them are too...



1. What do your parents not know about your use of social media?

'I talk to people I don't know.'

'I watch videos with inappropriate language.'

'I search people up on Google.'

'My parents don't know I go on Call of Duty'



'I message friends without telling them.'

'I download games even when told not to.'

'I downloaded a game without them knowing'

'I play GTA at my friend's house''

'I sneak on my device/phone and people swear in group chats'

'I watch something that they told me not to watch on Tik Tok on a friend's phone'

'I talk to other people online (strangers)'

'On Roblox, I play with people I don't know when I'm not meant to'

'I hide my iPad under my pillow and go on it at night'

'I go on my phone when I'm not allowed'

'There's a lot of in-fighting between friends'

'I see swear words a lot'

'I post on Tik Tok and that I have Twitter and Instagram'

'I have an account on Snapchat which I post vids on'

'I used Tik Tok without permission'

'I have loads of YouTube accounts'

2. What have you seen on social media that you wish you hadn't?

'Racism'

'Rumours about not nice things'

'A message from a boy I don't know saying that I was pretty and he loves me'

'Creepy YouTube vids'

'Pictures of people's private parts'

'Those videos that say bad ways people have died'

'Some Snapchats that say 18+ that someone sent me was two people doing you know what'

'I saw a picture of a creepy and not suitable figure'

'I wish I didn't see these sad stories on YouTube because it made me cry'

'I wish I didn't see these very young people on-line dating as what they were doing was VERY traumatising'

3. What have you done on social media that you regret?

'Downloaded TikTok even though I'm not allowed to'

'Going on at night'

'Watched 18+'

'Being rude to people'

'Falling for a scam on a game'

'Wrote a mean comment'

'Talk to people who pretended to be someone they're not'

'Was unkind to someone someone that I knew very well'

'Sent weird messages by accident as it was a dare'

'Once I was unkind about something just because I was annoyed'



There is a lot of pressure on children and you, as parents, to be allowed access to apps, games and web sites that are not always age-appropriate and, as you can read, often children are gaining access to media without parental permission, seeing or hearing things that they know they shouldn't. Monitoring this access is becoming increasingly difficult but we hope that the information above has been useful to you in gaining a stronger awareness of what children are experiencing on-line. Hopefully this can enable a greater insight into helping you making informed decisions about the way your children use phones, tablets, laptops, computers and gaming consoles to assure their greater safety on-line.

We hope this information helps to keep your child safe online,

Brookside School