UKCCIS
UK COUNCIL FOR **CHILD INTERNET SAFETY**

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Aims

This research aimed to obtain the views of children in the looked-after system on various topics relating to personal safety.

Key Findings

- Children aged 5-12 who attended a conference were asked to complete individual question cards to obtain their views on a range of issues. 611 children filled in at least one question card.

- Out of 533 responses, 58% were boys and 42% were girls. Out of 588 responses concerning ethnic background, 69% were white, 11% were black, 9% were Asian, and 9% were mixed race. Out of 548 responses concerning age, the youngest reported age was five and the oldest twelve.

- Half of the children were in foster care and one in six lived in a children's home. One in 8 of the children were not in the looked after system, but attended a boarding school.

- 424 children responded to the question 'what keeps children safe from being bullied?'

    o   50% said school staff
    o   42% said telling someone
    o   18% said carers
    o   16% said ignoring bullies
    o   14 said friends

- 364 children responded to the question, 'how do children keep safe on the internet?'

    o   27% said being supervised when online
    o   23% said by only using safe sites
    o   18% said by not talking to strangers on social networking sites
    o   16% said with blocks and filters
    o   14% said by not giving out personal information/photos
    o   10% said by not using the internet at all.

- Specific responses to this question included:

    o   *'Don't look at rude sites'*
    o   *'I go on things that are suitable for me'*
    o   *'Make sure an adult knows what you are going on'*
    o   *'Only talk to your friends and family on there'*

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o *'Be in the same room as parents'*
o *'No photos of yourself or details'*

▪ Children who attended boarding schools were much less likely than other children to say that they were being kept safe on the internet by being supervised by adults or by blocks or filters, but far more likely than others to say that they were kept safe by telling an adult if they came across something risky on the internet.

▪ Boarders were also far more likely than others to say they kept safe by never going on any social networking sites. Children living in boarding schools and children living in residential schools were both more likely than other children to say they kept themselves safe by not giving out personal information or photographs of themselves to anyone on the internet.

Policy Context

Research which seeks the views of children in the looked after system, who may be vulnerable, is valuable for the formation of effective internet safety policy.

Methodology

Children under the age of 12 and in the looked after system were invited to a theme park for a children's conference. These children were asked to fill in question cards and hand these in at a number of 'bases' throughout the theme park as they went. Question cards did not include suggested answers, allowing open answers. Responses were coded by the research team during analysis. In total, 611 children completed at least one question card for this small scale, quantitative study.

Background

The Children's Rights Director for England has a duty to ask children and young people in care, receiving help from council social care services and children living away from home their views about their rights, welfare and how they are looked after.

Source https://www.rights4me.org/content/beheardreports/453/REPORT_Younger_children's_views.pdf
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