

YOUTH IF PROJECT

MY WISH FOR THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET IS
FASTER DOWNLOADING TIME
AND BETTER WEB ACCESS.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO
HAVE OUR SAY
ABOUT THE NET BECAUSE WE USE IT THE MOST AND SOMETIMES KNOW MORE ABOUT IT THAN ADULTS DO!

MY WISH FOR THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET IS
EVERYONE COULD ACCESS THE INTERNET
AS IT IS A WORLDWIDE EDUCATIONAL TOOL.
ELISHA - AGED 15

MY WISH FOR THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET IS
EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT
TO GO ON WHAT THEY WANT IN ANY LANGUAGE, BLIND AND DEAF PEOPLE.
JAKE - AGED 12

MY WISH FOR THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET IS
TO HAVE FREEDOM
TO GO ON WHAT WE WANT WITHOUT BEING RESTRICTED BUT STILL BE SAFE ON THE INTERNET.
THOMAS - AGED 12

MY WISH FOR THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET IS THAT
YOU KNOW WHO IS TALKING
TO YOU AND THAT THEY ARE WHO THEY SAY THEY ARE
HOLLY - AGED 13

SHOULD EVERYONE BE ABLE TO SAY (OR DO)

EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT TO

ON THE INTERNET?

IS THE INTERNET

FAIR

... DOES IT STAND FOR WHAT EVERYONE BELIEVES?

WHAT COULD COMPANIES DO TO MAKE YOU

FEEL SAFER

WHEN YOU'RE ON THE INTERNET?

WHAT DO YOU DO ONLINE THAT YOU CAN'T DO OFFLINE?

WHAT PREVENTS **YOUNG PEOPLE** GOING ONLINE?

WHAT ARE YOUR **INTERNET RIGHTS?**

WHY DO SOME **CHILDREN**

HAVE THE INTERNET AND OTHERS NOT?

SHOULD ANYONE BE **IN CHARGE** OF THE INTERNET?

WHAT ARE **YOUR WISHES** FOR THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET?

43% OF YOUNG PEOPLE BELIEVE THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE ONLINE

30% OF YOUNG PEOPLE THINK THAT LACK OF CONNECTION STOPS PEOPLE GOING ONLINE

34% OF YOUNG PEOPLE WANT ACCESS TO ALL WEBSITES

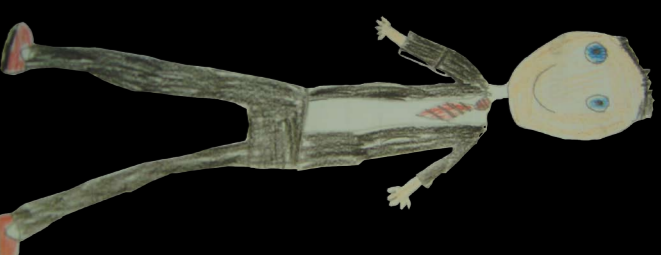
32% OF PRIMARY CHILDREN DO NOT THINK THE INTERNET GIVES A GOOD IDEA OF WHAT THE WORLD IS LIKE





●● IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE OUR SAY ABOUT THE NET BECAUSE WE USE IT THE MOST AND SOMETIMES KNOW MORE ABOUT IT THAN ADULTS DO!

ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM IS VITALLY IMPORTANT. IT IS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF USING AND ADOPTING NEW INTERNET TECHNOLOGIES, EMBRACING THEM IN A WAY THAT MANY ADULTS HAVE FAILED TO DO.



Will Gardner
 Will Gardner
 CEO, Childnet International

In the build up to the IGF 2009, Childnet has been running the Youth IGF Project. Since June 2009 we have spoken to over 1550 children and young people throughout the UK about their online experiences, what they think their online rights are, and what their wishes for the future of the Internet are, alongside encouraging them to think about their behaviour and attitudes to safety and their use of the Internet.

We have talked about openness, access, security and diversity – explaining these concepts to young people and listening to how they are relevant to their lives. We have talked about Internet rights as a key theme during conversations, and discussed their online responsibilities alongside this.

ACCESS

WE ASKED:
 WHAT STOPS PEOPLE GOING ONLINE?

WE HEARD:
 ... that young people believe that they have a right to access the Internet and yet there are various reasons why people don't and can't go online. The answers we heard included the fact that some people can't afford to get online and some people don't have good connection where they live. We also heard that some people are put off going online because of cyberbullies and security fears. We listened to their awareness that access is not the same for everyone in the world.

SECURITY

WE ASKED:
 WHAT COULD BE DONE TO MAKE THE INTERNET SAFER?

WE HEARD:
 ●● FACEBOOK SHOULD HAVE COMPULSORY POP-UPS TO REMIND YOU IF YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS ARE WEAK ●●
 ●● EVEN IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT COULD BE DONE TO MAKE IT SAFER, I THINK IT'S UP TO YOU TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE ●●
 ●● SHOULD BE MUCH STRONGER ADVERTISING REGULATIONS ●●

WHO WE SPOKE TO:

We spoke with 1073 secondary school pupils and 495 primary school pupils throughout the UK visiting schools in the Channel Islands, Bristol, Devon, London, Surrey, Birmingham, Newcastle, Liverpool and Edinburgh. We spoke with a mix of male and female pupils from different backgrounds, and in a mix of urban, suburban and rural settings. We asked them all the same basic questions, following up with more questions relevant to their answers.

WHAT WE LEARNT:

We learnt that children and young people are Internet experts and have a lot to say on Internet Governance. We learnt that the issues discussed at the IGF are important and relevant to the experiences of children and young people online, but that they do not talk about openness, access, security and diversity in the same way that those at the IGF do. We encountered a range of responses and opinions, and were struck by the overwhelming positivity from young people about being asked their opinions on this topic. We learnt young people need more support in thinking about what it means to be a digital citizen and in defining their responsibilities online. We learnt that children and young people don't always make use of the safety tools that are provided for their use and these need to be communicated more clearly to them.

OPENNESS

WE ASKED:
 HOW OPEN IS THE INTERNET?

WE HEARD:
 ... that young people are frustrated with the things that block them online. They suggested that their schools should think carefully about filtering as it gets in the way of their research for school projects. They expressed a desire to have the freedom to go on what they want without being restricted and to not be judged on the websites that they visit.

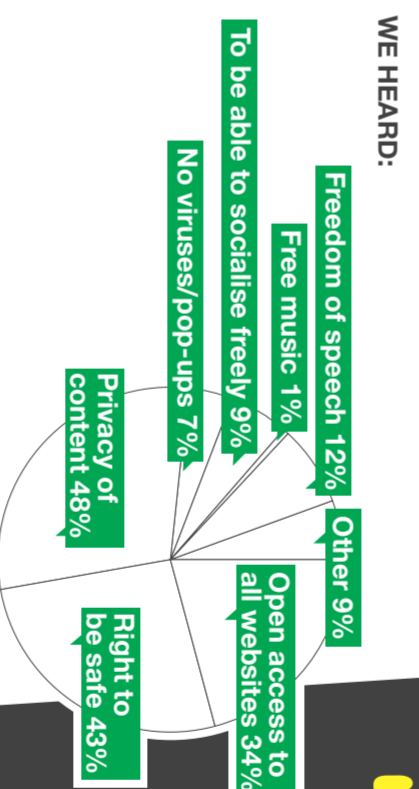
DIVERSITY

WE ASKED:
 DOES THE INTERNET GIVE A GOOD IDEA OF WHAT OUR WORLD IS LIKE?

WE HEARD:
 ●● IT REASONABLY SHOWS THE DARK BITS OF HUMANITY, BUT NOT THE DESPERATE POVERTY OF LESS ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ●●
 ●● I THINK SO BECAUSE OUR ONLINE WORLD IS VERY MUCH THE SAME AS OUR NORMAL WORLD ●●
 ●● NO, BECAUSE YOU FEEL SAFER IN YOUR HOME ON THE INTERNET THAN OUTSIDE IN THE REAL WORLD ●●
 ●● APPEARANCES ARE A LOT DIFFERENT ONLINE SO, NO ●●
 ●● NO, BECAUSE YOU FEEL SAFER IN YOUR HOME ON THE INTERNET THAN OUTSIDE IN THE REAL WORLD ●●
 ●● NO BECAUSE THE PEOPLE ONLINE CAN EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN ANYWAY, BUT IN PERSON THEY CAN BE VERY DIFFERENT ●●

RIGHTS

WE ASKED:
 WHAT DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO ON THE INTERNET?



THE FUTURE

WE ASKED:
 WHAT ARE YOUR WISHES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET?

WE HEARD:
 ●● MY ONE WISH FOR THE INTERNET IS FOR EVERYONE TO BE ABLE TO AND HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO WHAT THEY WANT (WITHIN REASON), NOT ALL THE PEOPLE YOU TALK TO ONLINE ARE PANDOPHILES! SOME ARE JUST NORMAL PEOPLE LIKE OURSELVES AND PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TALK TO WHO THEY WANT AS LONG AS THEY ACTUALLY KNOW WHO THEY ARE!
 CARLA - AGED 15
 ●● FOR EVERYONE TO USE IT IN A HEALTHY WAY AND NOT TO USE IT TO EXPOSE OR EXPLOIT ANYONE. I WISH THAT EVERYONE COULD ACCESS THE INTERNET AS IT IS A WORLDWIDE EDUCATIONAL TOOL AND CAN BE USED FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES TOO!
 ELISHA - AGED 15

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WHAT PREVENTS YOUNG PEOPLE GOING ONLINE?

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SHOULD ANYONE BE IN CHARGE OF THE INTERNET?



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Childnet's award winning KidSMART website:
www.kidsmart.org.uk
 Childnet's Digizen website on digital citizenship:
www.digizen.org.uk
 Childnet's Youth IGF Project YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/YouthIGFProject

WHO ARE WHO ARE CHILDNET INTERNATIONAL?

Childnet International is a UK-based charity working with others around the world to help make the Internet a great and safe place for children. A child focused organisation, Childnet works directly with children, those responsible for children and other organisations and service providers operating around them. In particular, Childnet works actively in the area of education and awareness in promoting the potential and opportunities that the Internet and new technologies offer by providing quality advice to children, young people, parents, teachers and caregivers, to enable children to use technologies safely and responsibly.

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