

More online safety needed for kids caught up in the Coronavirus pandemic

With lockdowns, home working and travel restrictions thanks to the Coronavirus pandemic, it's easy to forget about the safety of kids online, most of whom have experienced home schooling as well.

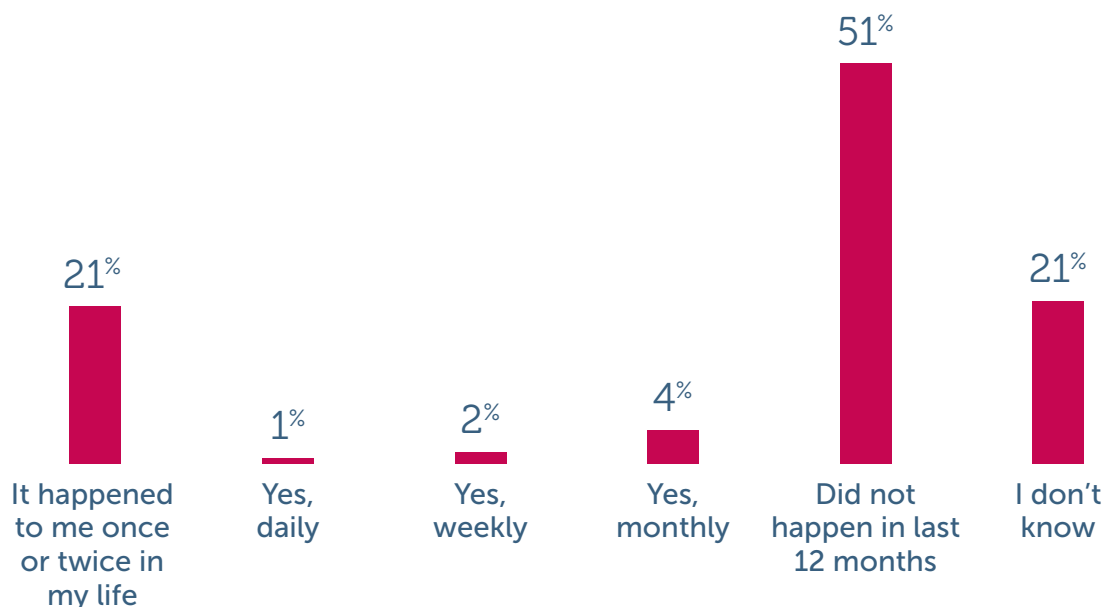
Online safety of kids is always important, but with more time spent online for study, entertainment and talking to friends, better supervision and technology to protect children is imperative.

This leaves Australian parents often stuck trying to balance better digital experiences for their children with the privacy and security of their time spent online.

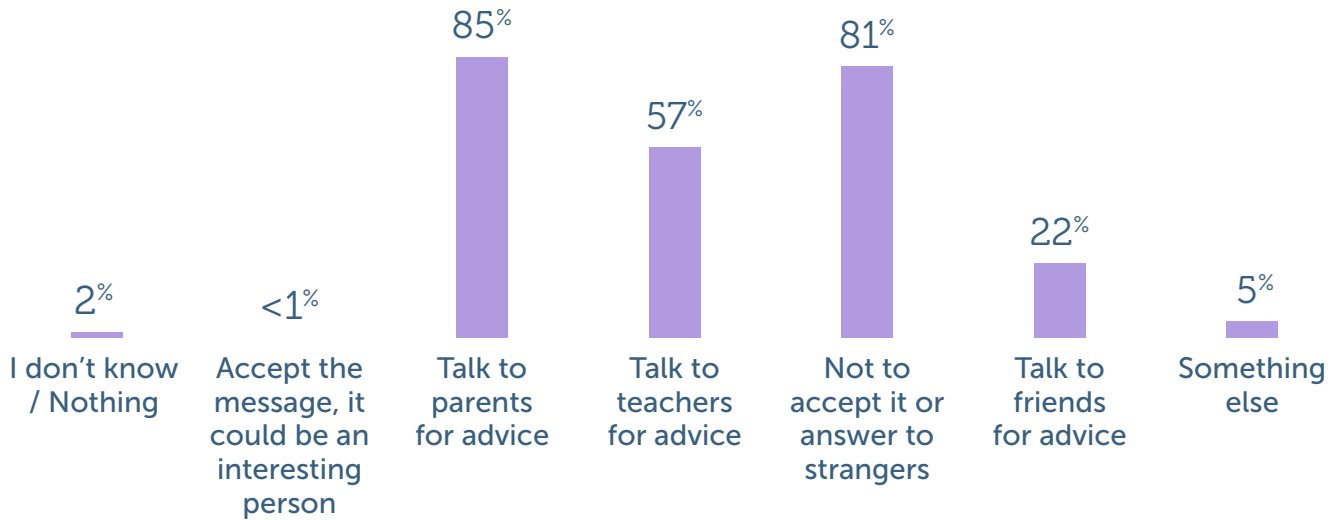
To understand the challenges kids are facing during this time of remote learning and new social networks, K-Zone and Total Girl Magazine on behalf of ESET asked Australian kids aged under 15 about what their privacy and safety feelings are and how the Coronavirus pandemic has changed their cyber outlook.

With more sophisticated internet protection technology, including safe webcam streaming and parental control, parents can enjoy peace of mind with their children's online activities at home and on the road.

In the PAST 12 MONTHS, has someone acted in a hurtful or nasty way towards you on the Internet?



If a friend told you, that a stranger tried to message them online, what would you recommend they do? (multiple choice question)



Only fewer than

1 in 10

kids feel more in touch with friends or classmates thanks to Coronavirus

And

8 in 10

kids expect to have at least one rule in place when using the Internet at home – a high acceptance of security

When online, how much are you worried about:



A high

88%

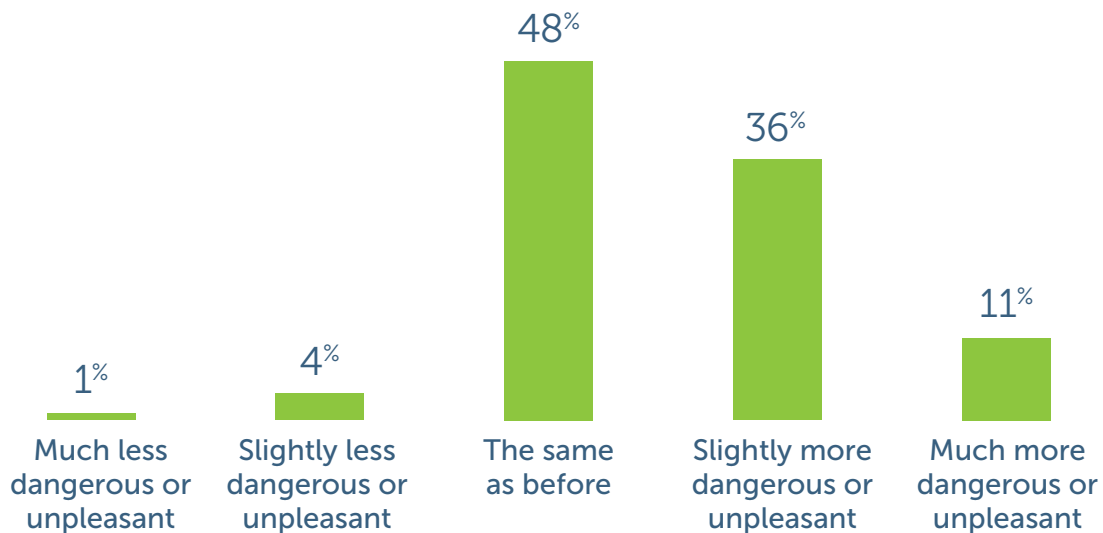
are concerned about being approached by adult strangers online, followed by getting hacked at 87%

With

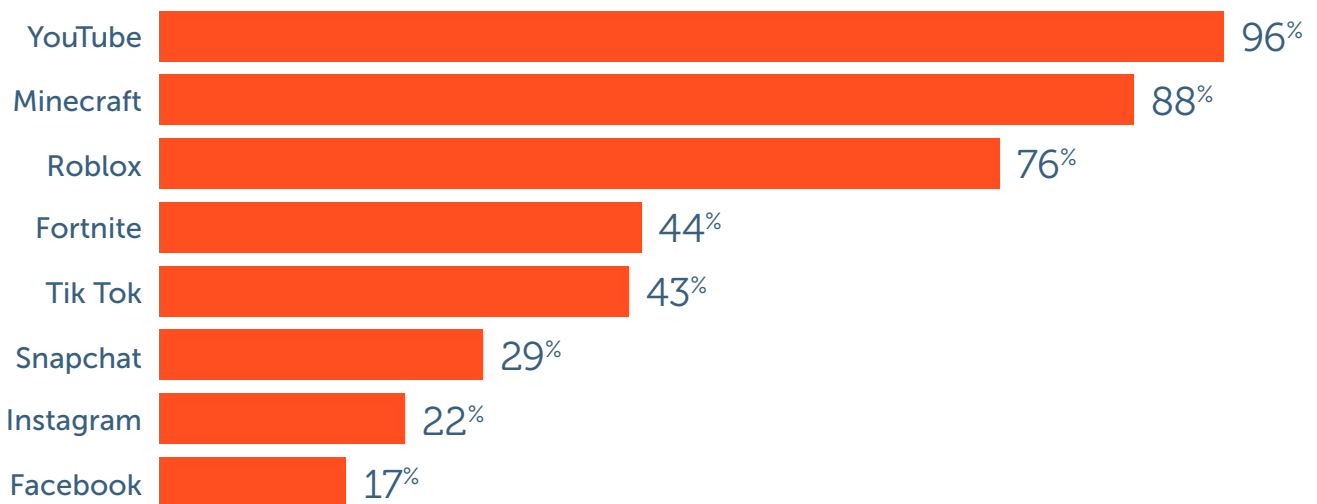
82%

worried about seeing something upsetting or disgusting, there is a strong need for automated parental control tools

Compared to before the coronavirus outbreak kids think the internet is:



YouTube is the most popular (by % rate of use) social media platform for Aussie kids, with gaming networks used more than many Web-based social networks in this demographic.



YouTube, Snapchat and TikTok

are the most popular social networking apps for children in Australia

Today's connected kids are using a range of devices, with tablets the most popular at

70%

About the survey

This survey was conducted in October 2021 by Nextmedia Kids Network on behalf of ESET. 2880 kids were interviewed in the survey.