

Myths on the Online Practices of 13 and 14 Year old Children in Wales
from the Generation 2000 Report on the Internet and Digital Media Habits and Digital
Literacy of 13 and 14 Year olds in Wales
(To download go to www.wisekids.org.uk)

- 1) All 13 and 14 year olds use a smartphone/tablet.
No, 20% of children either have either never used a smartphone, or use it less than once a week; 26% of children have either never used a tablet, or use it less than once a week.
- 2) Children from schools with higher levels of Free School Meals (FSM) are disadvantaged in terms of access to devices to go online.
No, there is no difference.
- 3) Children from schools with higher levels of FSM are less likely to undertake a range of online activities.
Actually, slightly more children from schools with higher levels of FSM undertake a range of online activities.
- 4) All children play online games.
No, 1 in 3 don't.
- 5) Using 'privacy settings' on social networks means you are private.
This is not the case. In one question, 71% of children report using privacy settings. However when asked a more detailed question about their status updates on social networks, 42% said their updates would be private, and 50% said their updates are a mixture of public and private posts.
- 6) Parents who check their children's social network and social messaging activity, check their activity across all platforms.
This is not the case. More children report their parents check their Facebook than other social platforms.
- 7) Most parents monitor their children's online activity.
According to their children, this is not true – most children say their parents rely on trust.
- 8) Children would like to interact with their teachers on social media channels.
This may not be true necessarily. Much depends on how this is carried out. Children value their privacy and see their use of social media as personal, and do not want to mix 'school stuff' and 'personal stuff'.

