

Dear Parents,

Please find attached an easy to read breakdown of the responses to our internet safety questions. As a parent, and as a school in fact, our first layer of protection is the application of settings which may restrict internet 'wanderings'. Many of our children believe they don't have settings at home.

While headphone wearing may not look like a significant risk, there are many spoof videos on you tube for example which look like they contain innocuous cartoon content but the narrative is explicit and inappropriate.

What deeply concerned us was the child's conviction that they can tell when stranger communication is safe. Sadly, the very nature of online predators is the friendly and safe approach they take in the first instance, challenging children to push the boundaries of safety once the child considers them to be no longer a stranger. This often begins with non-communicative game play. Online predators often then introduce themselves as a friend of a friend, with the victim giving them information without realising. Eg [I'm a friend of Peter, The one at Warthill School?](#), [Yes](#)

We thought it would be helpful for you to have these statistics and give you the opportunity, as half term approaches, to consider what you know about your child's online presence.

We know how important your child's safety is to you. While your child may be incorrect in assuming they know more about internet safety than you, they may know lots more about apps and gaming which could be putting them at risk. You can research the nature of, and any risks associated with these games and apps at: <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/>

We will continue our focus on internet safety in school.

With every best wish,

*Beverley Pawson*

Headteacher

Sand Hutton and Warthill Federated Schools