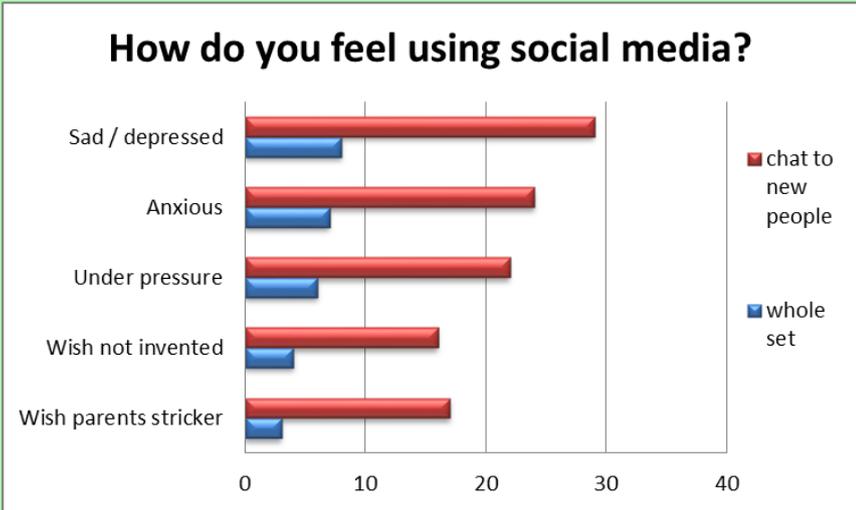


## Termly Safeguarding Briefing for Schools

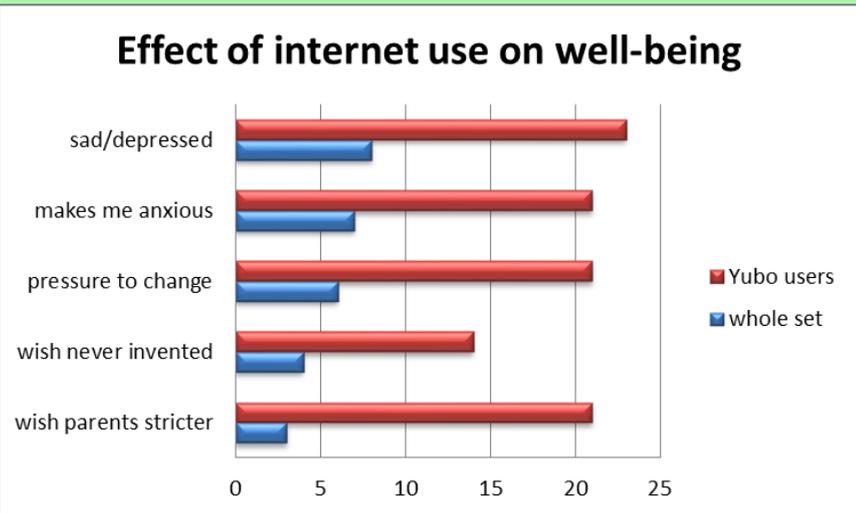
### Some findings from the Year 6 and Year 9 Leicestershire schools e-safety surveys 2019

There was an excellent response to the surveys again this year with a total of 6,103 students taking part. For the first time, they included questions about perceptions of emotional well-being and internet use. The responses show that particular types of risky online behaviour correlate strongly to negative feelings. The following charts illustrate this for the Year 9 age group.



This chart compares the 99 students who use video chat to talk to new people online against the whole data set. This suggests that students who use the internet to talk to new people are much more likely to say that using the internet can also be a negative experience for them.

The chart below compares the 57 students who use Yubo (an app for teenagers wanting to meet new people or livestream), with the whole data set. Once again students who are using this app to potentially meet up with strangers, are also much more likely to find that their internet use can have a negative impact on their emotional well-being.



These stark differences underline the importance of parents/carers and teachers talking to children about the risks of certain online behaviours and the need for them to find a healthy balance between internet use and offline activities involving perhaps physical exercise and face to face social interaction with peers.

Some positive trends in the survey are that, over time, children are less likely to use riskier apps like Yubo and ooVoo and are more likely to say that parents are there for them if they have a difficulty and need support. The level of cyber bullying does not seem to be increasing, holding steady at 21% for Year 9. Also, the percentage of children of this age who admit sending a self-produced indecent image remains at 3%. However, the proportion of children who say that they have not experienced any online issues dropped from 58% to 51% this year. And unfortunately, of those children who said they have met up with people who they only knew before as online contacts, a higher percentage (44%) than last year (42%), went on their own.

## **Words over Weapons**

This is a Home Office funded project available to young people aged 11-19 yrs from across Leicester and Leicestershire. Funding has been curtailed but free sessions are still available for areas which have been identified as high risk and other areas can access the project with the cost being part funded by school.

For more details call 07956 668955.

## **Educate Against Hate**

There is a government campaign that aims to give advice and support if you have concerns that a child or young person has extreme views or has been exposed to ideas that are extreme. There are many free resources which can be used in school e.g. lesson ideas and plans. <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

## **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)**

Children who are involved in criminal activity are victims. They are often vulnerable children who have been targeted/exploited/groomed by gangs and forced into committing crimes. These crimes can include, delivering drugs, knife/gun crime, burglaries, damaging property, mugging. Some useful resources/posters and information can be found at <https://www.catch-22.org.uk/news/spot-the-signs-cse-awareness-poster-hub/>

## **Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF)**

There is a new referral form which will shortly be available. It will replace the two forms which were used previously to make referrals when you had a concern about a child. More information and guidance will be available shortly. A briefing note for schools and some of the documentation can be found at [www.lrsb.org.uk/multi-agency-referral-form](http://www.lrsb.org.uk/multi-agency-referral-form)

## **Updated Child Protection Policy**

It is planned to update the local authority example policy again as soon as the online link to the MARF is confirmed. The current Child Protection Policy (Feb 2019) is available on LTS—this latest update included:

- an appendix detailing the categories of abuse
- a reference to CCE

## **Breast Ironing**

Breast Ironing has been highlighted recently in the national press. It is practiced in some African countries, notably Cameroon. Girls aged between 9 and 15 have hot pestles, stones or other implements rubbed on their developing breasts to stop them growing further. In the vast majority of cases breast ironing is carried out by mothers or grandmothers. The practice of breast ironing is seen as a protection to girls by making them seem 'child-like' for longer and reduce the likelihood of pregnancy. Breast ironing is a form of physical abuse. Damage caused by the 'ironing' can leave women with malformed breasts, difficulty breastfeeding or producing milk, severe chest pains, infections and abscesses.

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