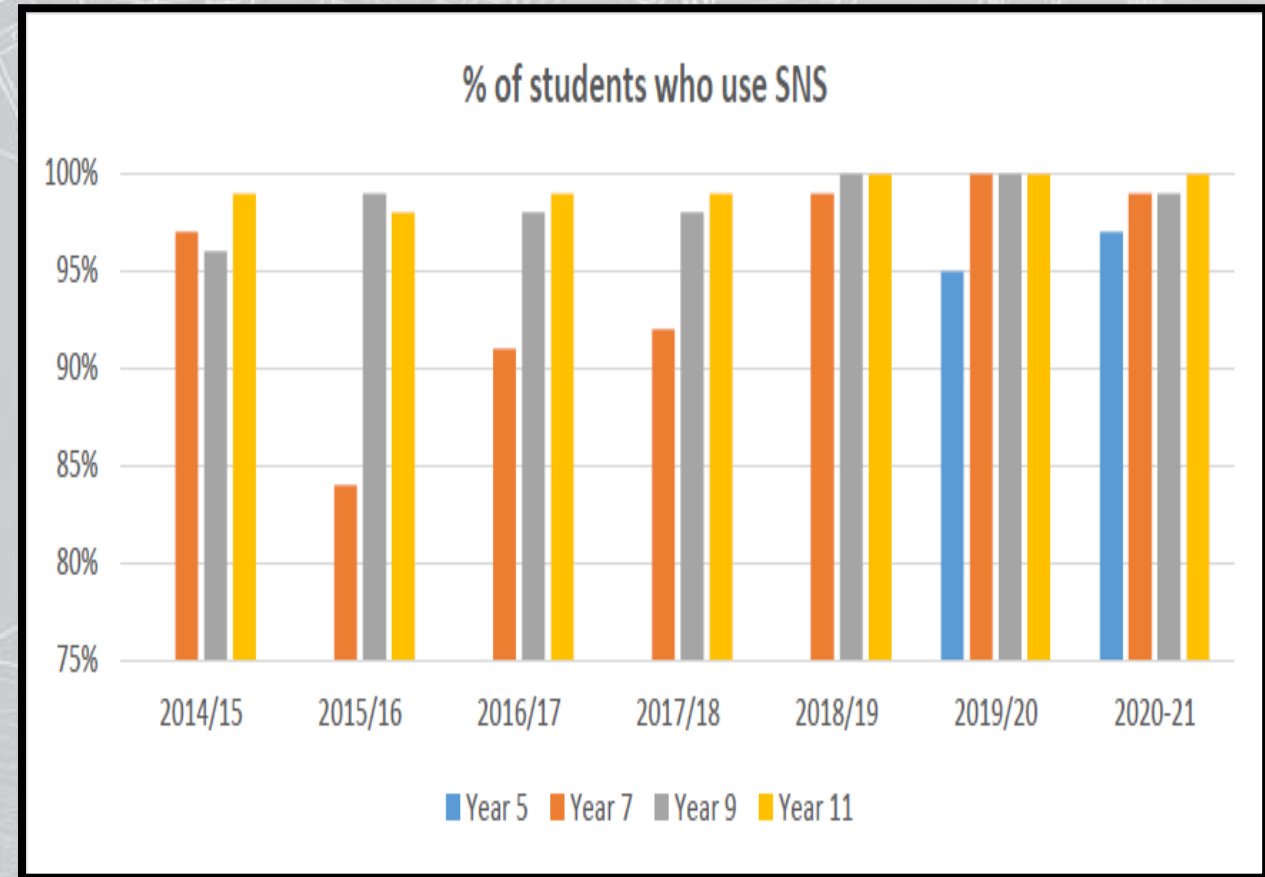


The Privacy Awareness School Report relates to the results of a survey carried out in Gibraltar during the 2020/21 academic year which examines the relationship between the use of digital technology and privacy matters.

## KEY OBSERVATIONS

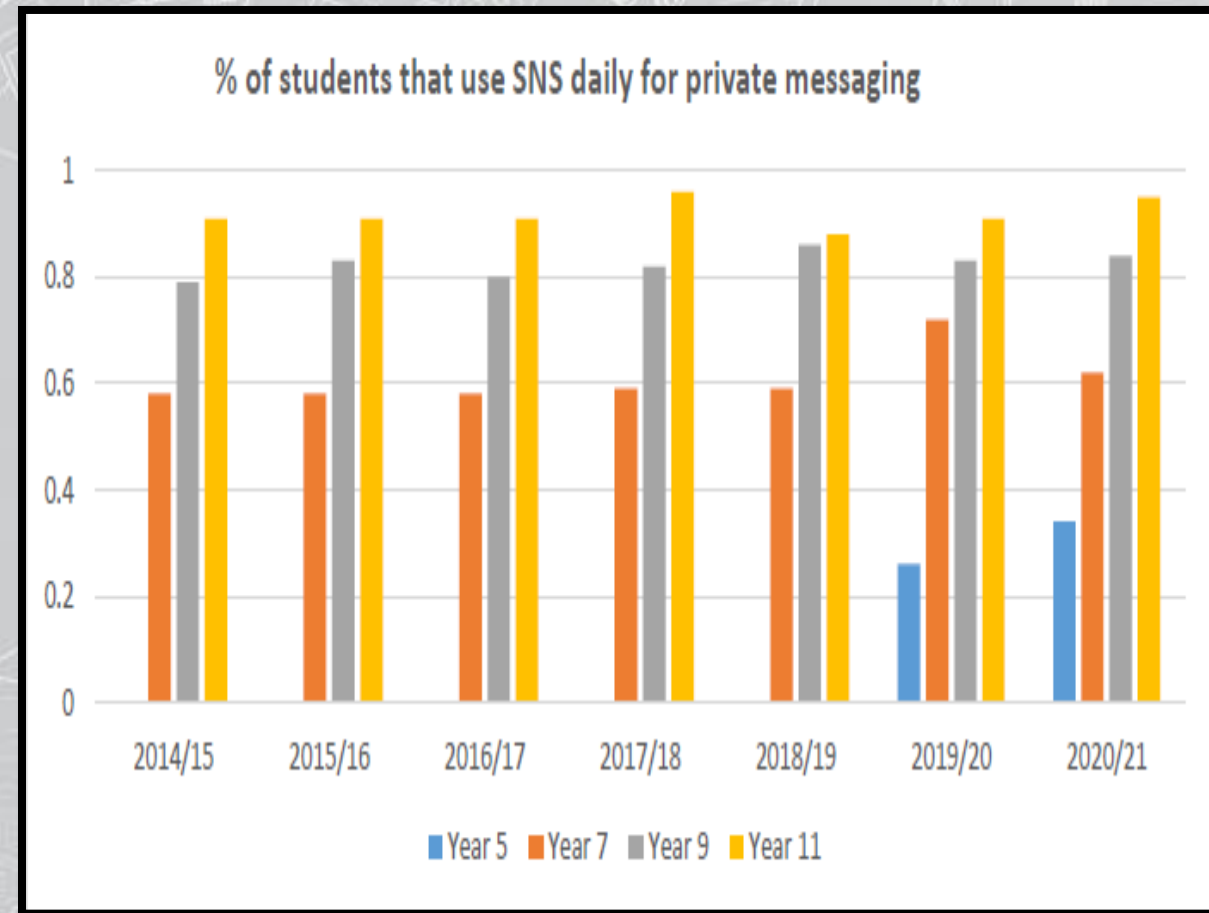
- The percentage use of Social Networking Sites (“SNS”) remains consistently close to the 100% mark for Year 7, 9 and 11 students surveyed.
- The Information Commissioner views the high usage of SNS amongst Year 5 students as a potential concern, especially in cases where privacy risks are not properly managed.



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## KEY OBSERVATIONS

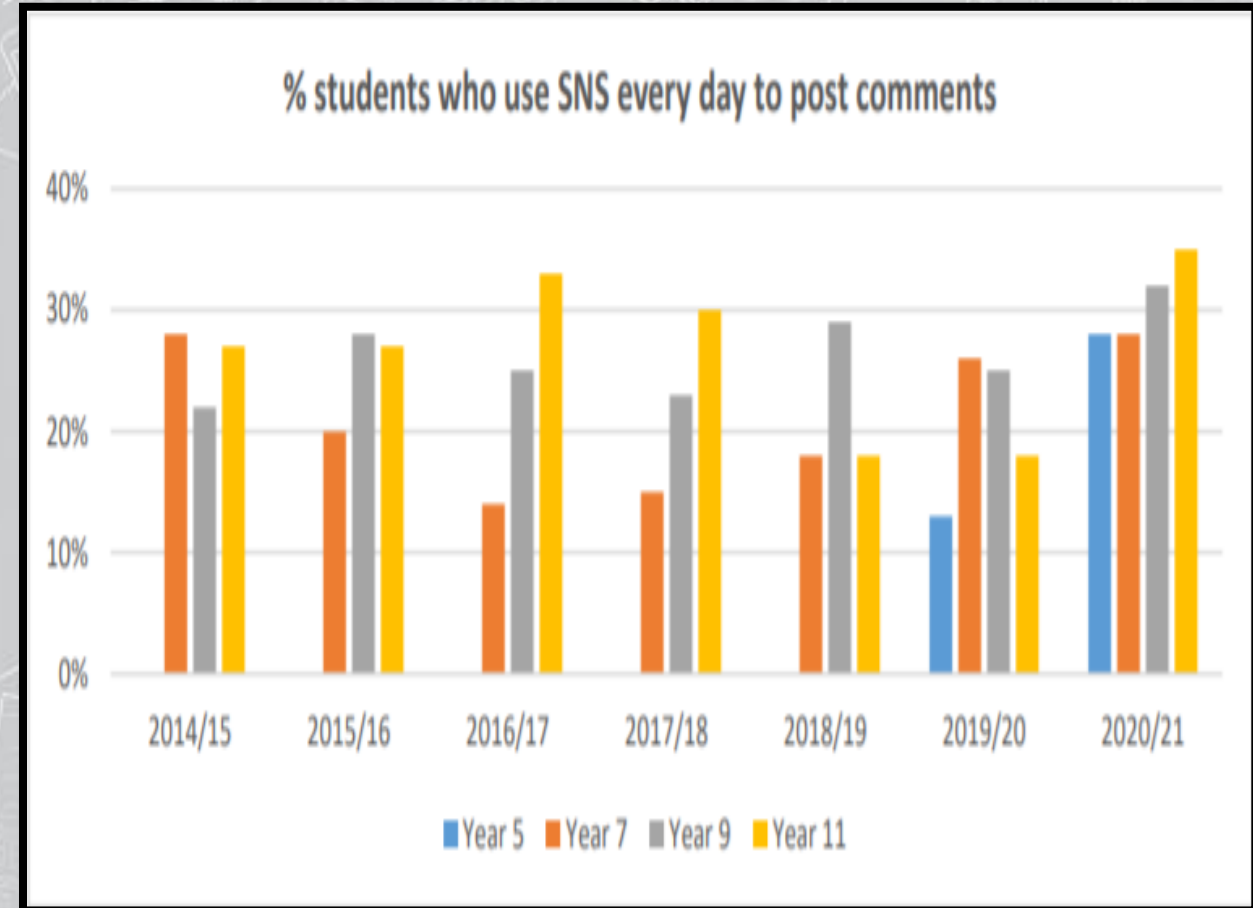
- Social Networking Sites (“SNS”) are mostly used for private messaging, followed by posting comments and lastly, to upload photos or videos.
- Private messaging on SNS increases with age.
- In comparison to last year, a 10% decline was recorded amongst Year 7 Students using SNS for private messaging. Conversely, a 10% increase was seen amongst Year 5 Students in this respect.



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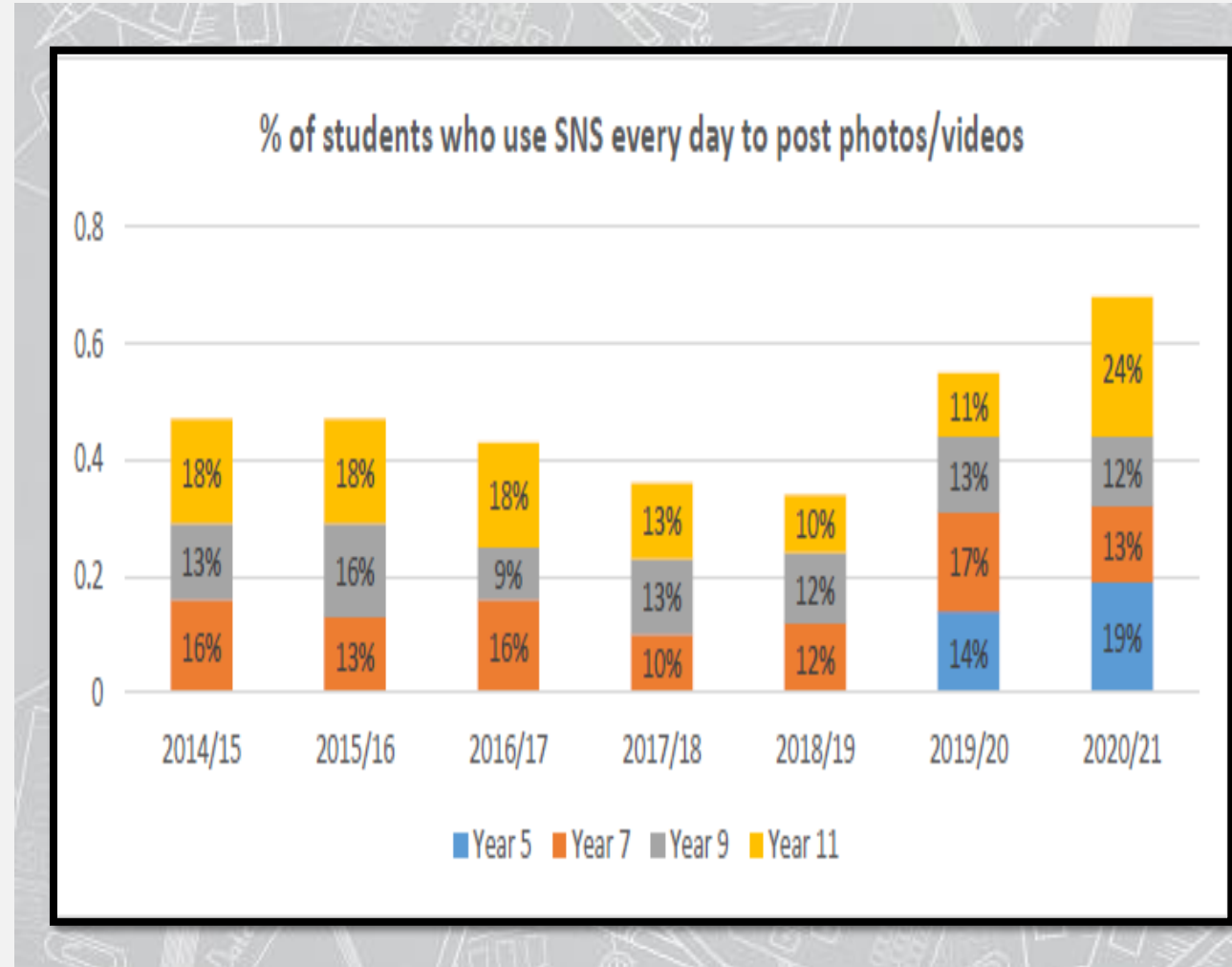
- The percentage of students using Social Networking Sites (“SNS”) to post comments has significantly increased despite fluctuating results over the years. The largest increase pertains to Year 5 students.
- Specifically in relation to Year 5 students however, results increased from 13% in 2019/20 to 28% in 2020/21.



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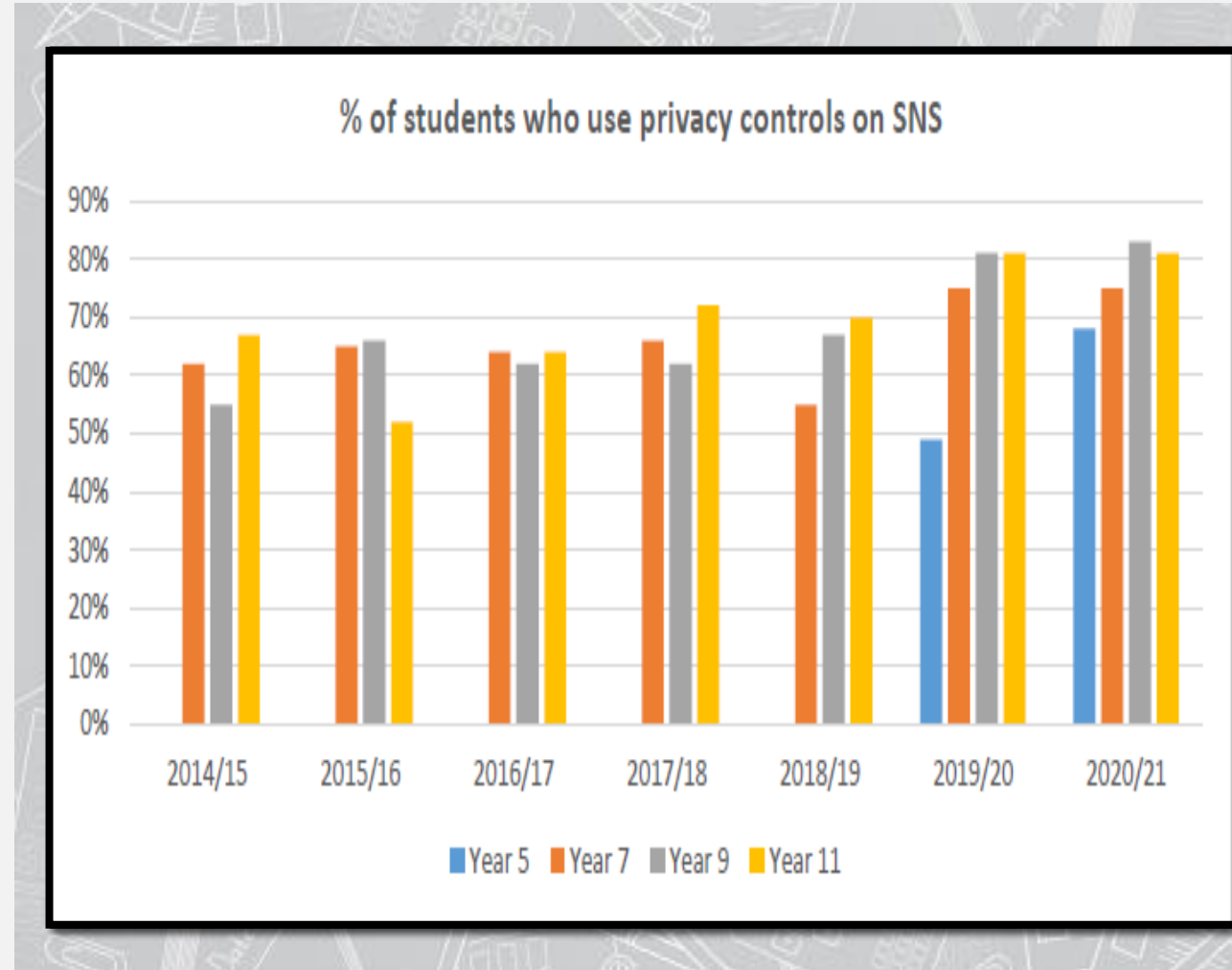
- This year there has been a significant rise in the use of Social Networking Sites (“SNS”) to post photos/videos by Year 5 students and Year 11 students in comparison to last year.
- 68% of all students use SNS to post photos/videos every day, the highest percentage since the Information Commissioner began collating information for surveys.



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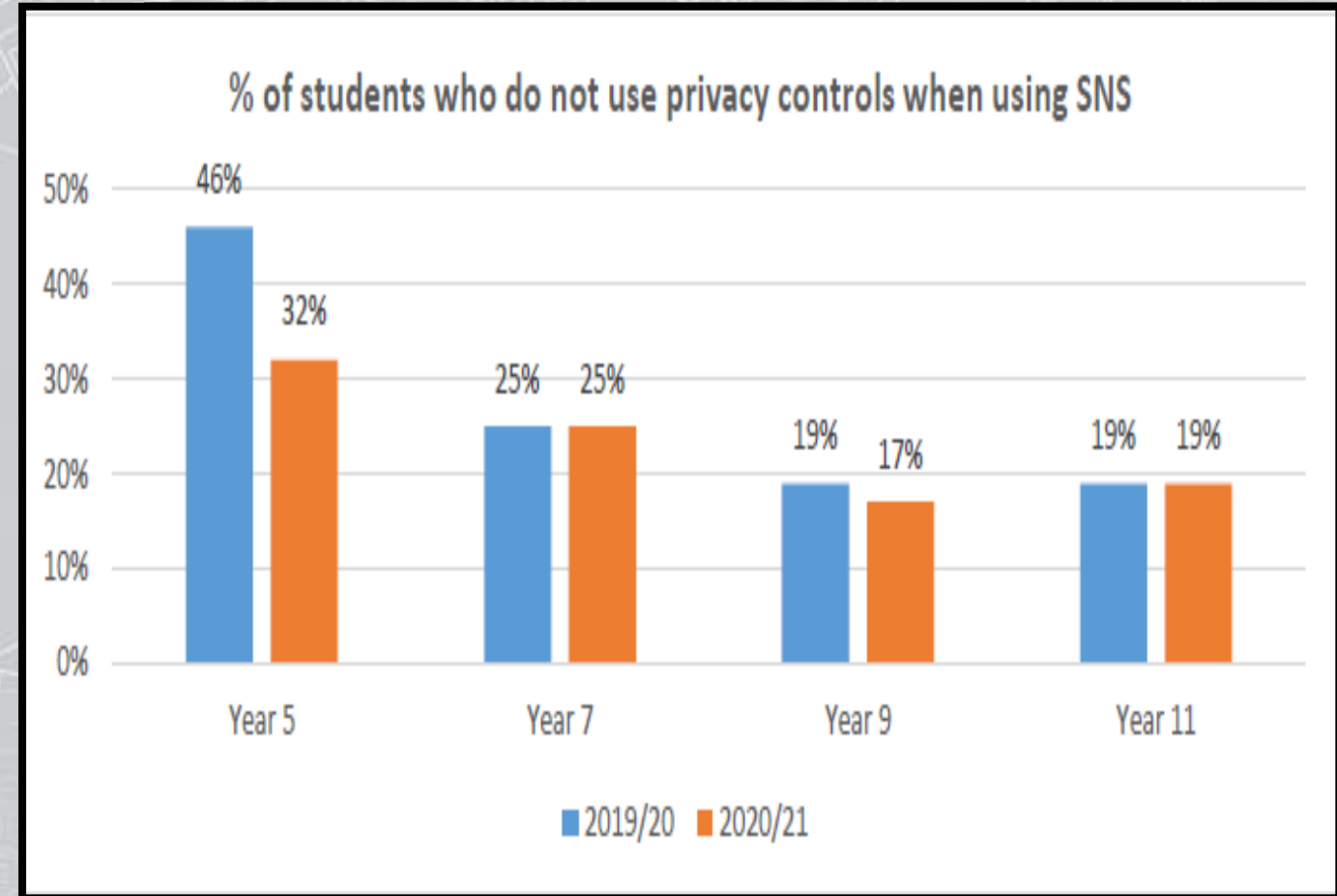
- Privacy controls are available to all users. They afford users the ability to control what type of personal information they share and who has access to it. Students are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of privacy controls.
- Whilst he welcomes these positive results, the Information Commissioner also feels improvements can be made in the younger age groups, in particular Year 5 Students, given their increased use of Social Networking Sites (“SNS”).



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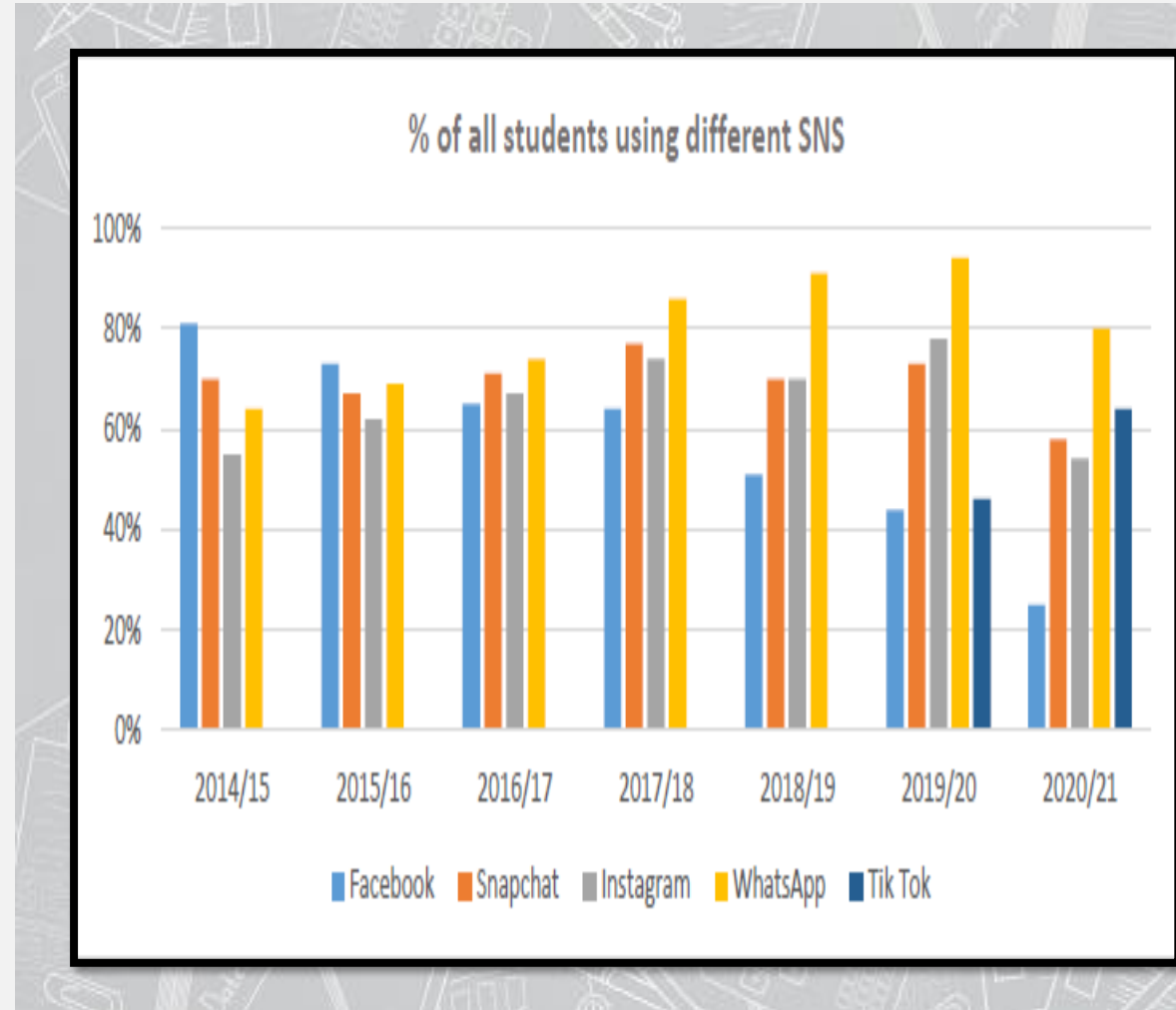
- 32% of Year 5 students claim they do not use privacy controls when using Social Networking Sites (“SNS”). For the second year running, this is the age category with the least protection.



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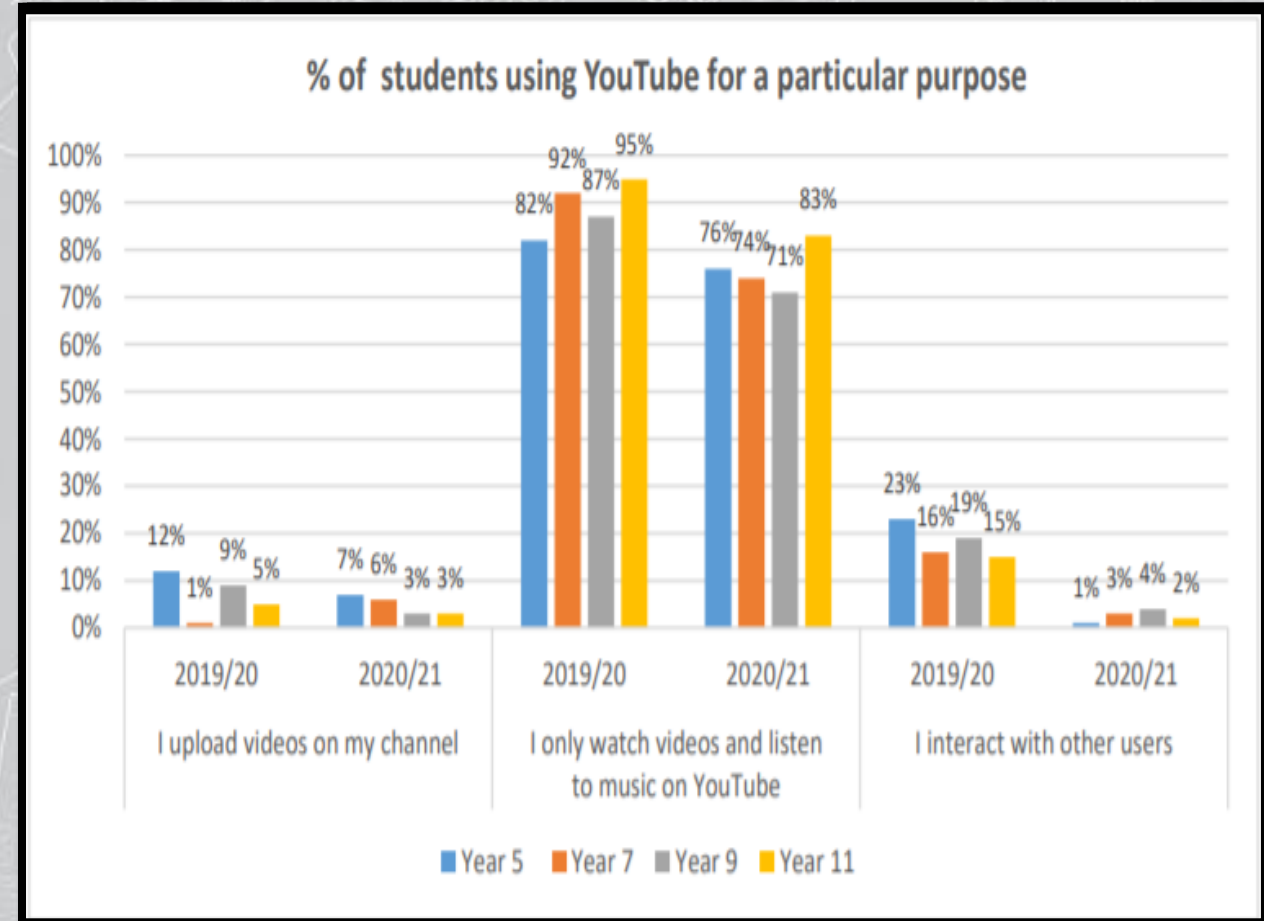
- For the fifth consecutive year, WhatsApp remains the most popular Social Networking Site (“SNS”). Instagram appears to have decreased in popularity, whilst Facebook remains the least popular SNS. TikTok on the other hand is gaining ground.
- The Information Commissioner remains concerned about privacy risks regarding the 32% of Year 5 students who do not use appropriate privacy controls. These concerns are heightened when considering that the majority of SNS are designed for individuals aged 13 and over.



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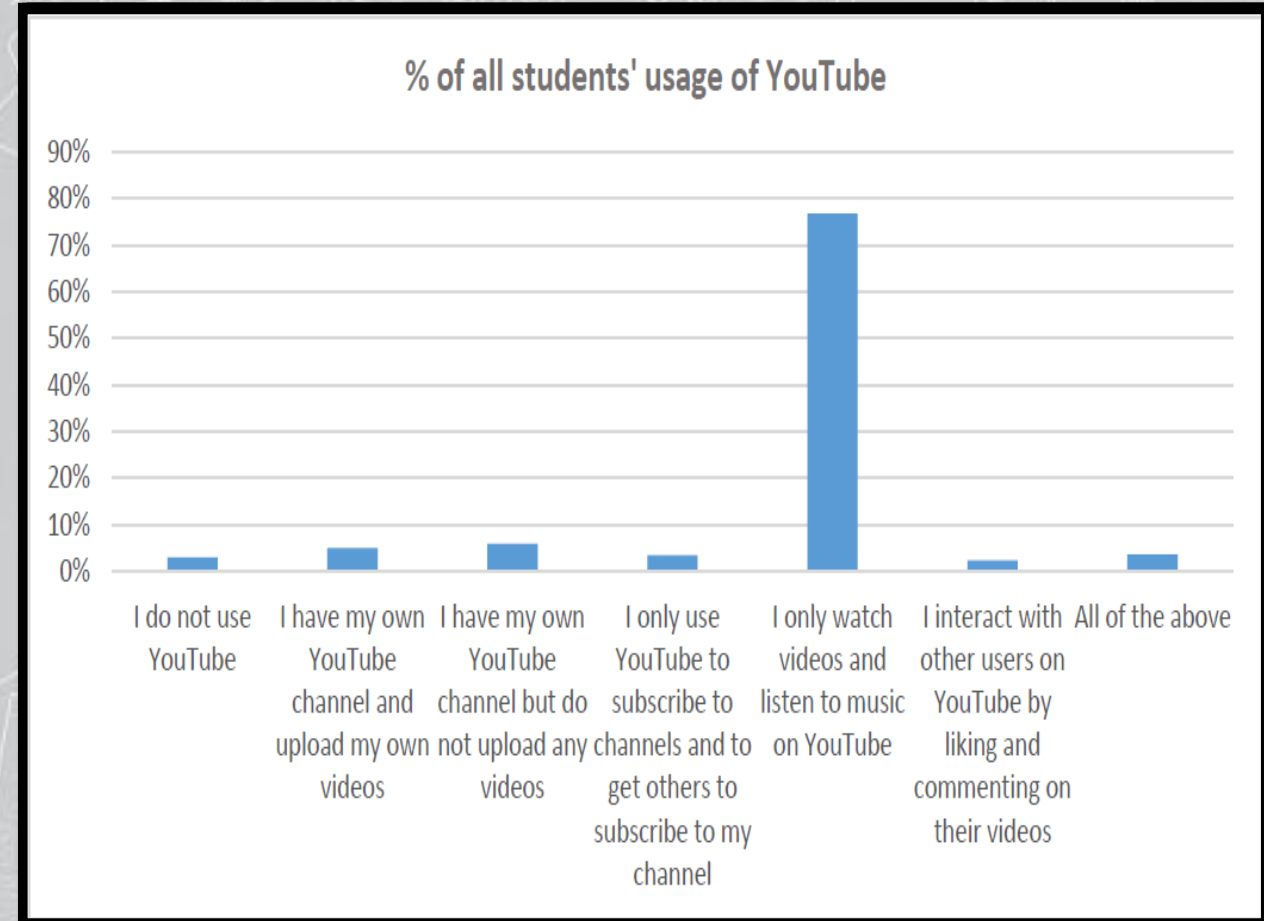
- YouTube may be perceived as one of the most popular Social Networking Sites (“SNS”) due to the many in-built features it provides and wide-ranging functions. However, students mainly appear to use YouTube to watch videos and listen to music.





## KEY OBSERVATIONS

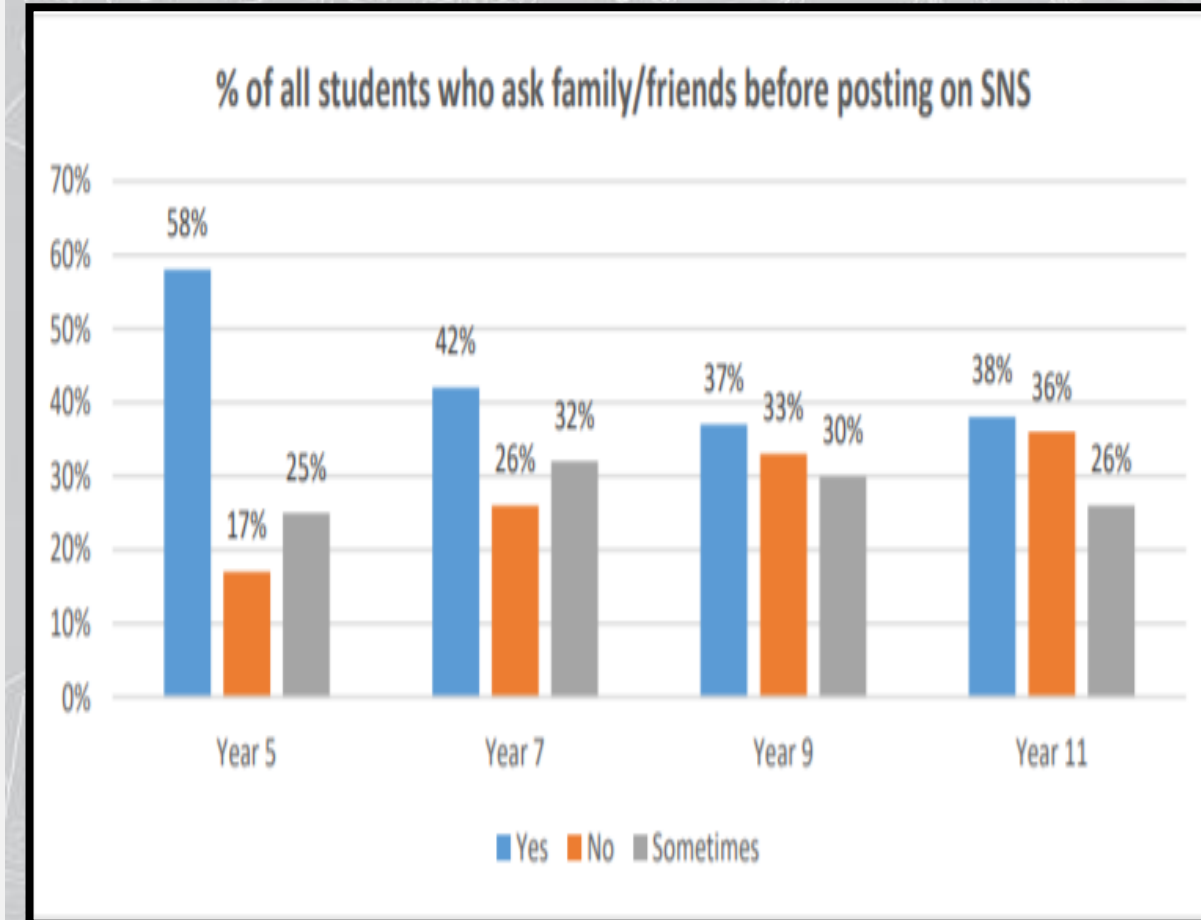
- In the main, a student's YouTube experience is more autonomous and seemingly detached from the social element than other Social Networking Sites ("SNS") like WhatsApp and Snapchat provide.
- The main use of YouTube appears to differ to the use of other 'media rich' SNS. Less students take to this platform to interact with other users.



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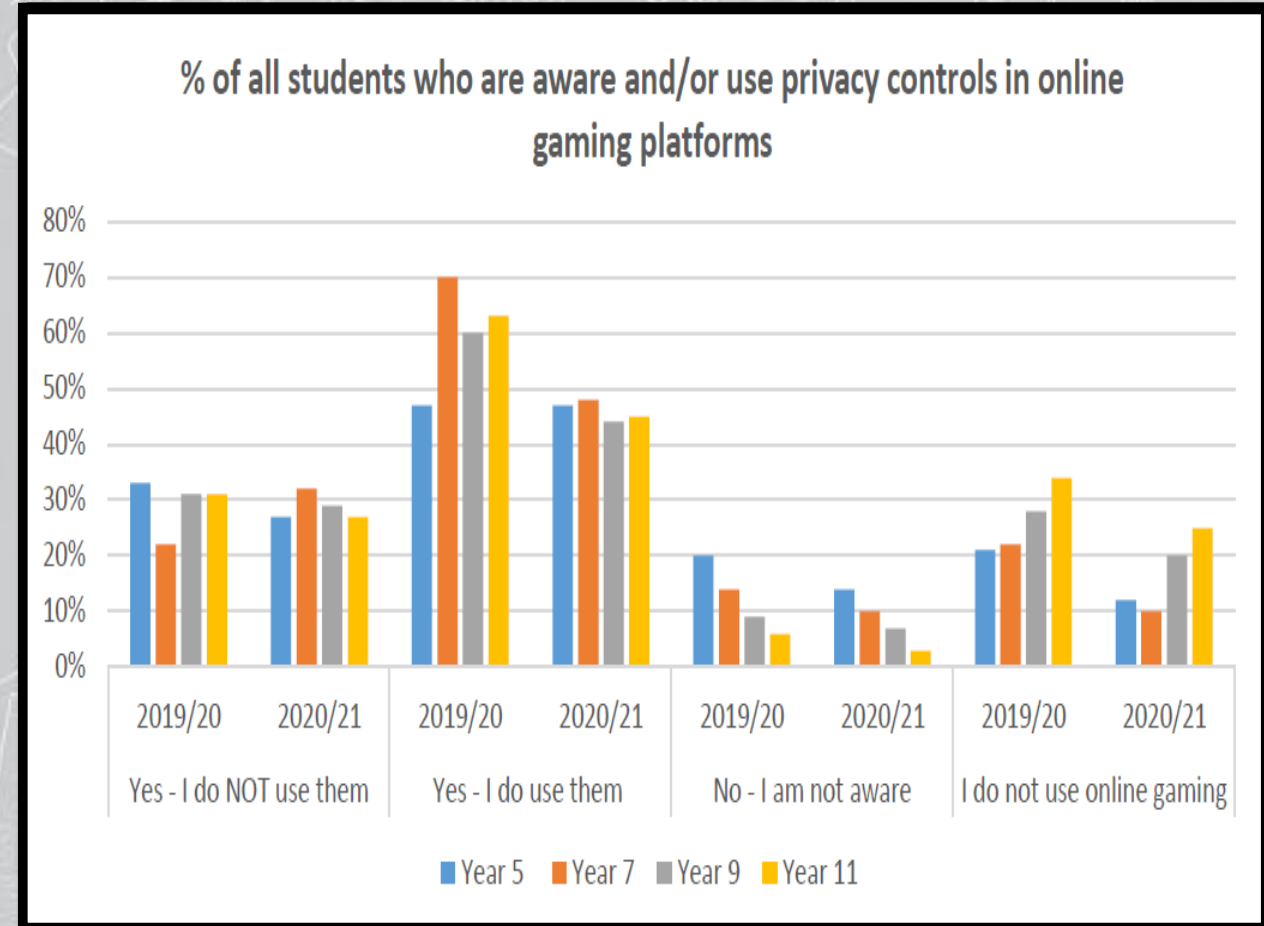
- Despite the lack of privacy controls used by Year 5 students, they appear most likely to seek consent before posting information about others on Social Networking Sites (“SNS”).
- The Information Commissioner welcomes this positive trend but notes the declining percentages for older age groups.
- Individuals must give due consideration to information posted about others on SNS as they may, in effect, lose control over their privacy and personal data as a result of the actions of others.



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## KEY OBSERVATIONS

- A shift is identified in the way individuals use and share personal data following the availability and accessibility of online gaming platforms. These afford users an online setting for open group discussions, private voice chats, and messages.
- More students appear to use online gaming platforms in comparison to last year. However, less students appear to be using the privacy controls available to them.



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## KEY OBSERVATIONS

- Year 5 students have resulted as the most cautious of all year groups, with 64% stating that they refuse access to an app if they are uncertain about the permissions being requested.
- Sometimes, mobile apps request access to information on mobile devices that is irrelevant to the app's main function (e.g., an app used to activate the mobile's camera flashlight for use as a torch, requesting access to contact lists). It is important that, when prompted to provide permissions during the installation of a new app, users pay close attention to whether access to personal data requested is really required.

