



REPORT ON RESULTS DERIVED FROM SCHOOLS QUESTIONNAIRE

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INTRODUCTION

As part of its Control Your Privacy Campaign, the Gibraltar Regulatory Authority (“GRA”), acting as the Data Protection Commissioner (the “Commissioner”), and with the co-operation of the Department of Education, carried out a survey of the Year 7 students of Bishop Fitzgerald Middle School, St. Anne’s Middle School, Sacred Heart Middle School, St. Joseph’s Middle School and Loreto Convent. The survey comprised 378 students, consisting of 192 boys and 186 girls, between the ages of 11 and 12. The survey was carried out during the months of February and March 2014.

PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the survey was to obtain an understanding on the extent of use of social networking sites (“SNS”) amongst students in Year 7 schools (the “Students”). Additionally, the survey also served to learn about the habits of the Students with regards to SNS, in particular, which SNS are being used, the reasons and frequency of use, and the extent to which available privacy controls are being used. Finally, the survey also enabled the Commissioner to establish the extent to which the Students using mobile devices, use available security, namely password or PIN.

The survey consisted of 10 questions, namely multiple choice (see Appendix 1 for copy of questionnaire). The questionnaires were delivered to the schools and completed by the students prior to a presentation being given to them by the Information Rights Division of the GRA. The presentations focused on the topic of protecting oneself online, in particular when using SNS. The message delivered by the presentations was namely that there is a risk of losing control of your privacy when using new technologies, including SNS, and that failure to control your privacy today, could prove costly in the future. Guidance was also provided on how to use SNS responsibly.

CONCLUSIONS

Whilst many of the results do not show alarming traits nor reflect tendencies which are of concern to the Commissioner, there are, however, some notable results.

In particular, it was found that 92% of the Students use at least one SNS. In this respect, it should be noted that, in many cases, the minimum age for using a SNS is 13. This is certainly the case for the 3 most popular SNS used by the Students. This statistic in itself is worrying, not only because it shows a disregard of the age restrictions imposed by SNS, but also because of the high percentage of the Students using platforms which are not designed for their age group.

Of concern too is the fact that the 3 most popular SNS amongst the Students was Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram (respectively). Whilst Facebook provides a number of functions including the ability to post comments, photographs and videos, Snapchat and Instagram are specifically designed for the exchange of photographs and little else. In other words, given that 61% of the Students use Snapchat, for example, it may be implied that there are a large number of photographs being made available to another party and, in every case, there is an element of risk as regards unauthorised disclosure to a third party, interception by hackers and the photograph being used maliciously in the future. In each of these scenarios, the sender is putting his/her privacy at risk where appropriate controls are not in place to safeguard privacy. It is also interesting to note that whilst there appears to be a relatively even split in the number of boys and girls who use Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram appear to be more favoured by girls.

As regards the results reflected in Table 4, it should be noted that 52% of the Students send private messages every day. This again is worrisome because it shows a large amount of activity going on daily on SNS, in particular as regards the 35% of the Students who hardly use privacy controls (see below and Table 7).

The results reflected in Table 5 are not particularly worrisome at first glance. However, the implications are that whilst the majority of the personal data posted by the Students is about themselves, there appears to be a large amount of data being uploaded about other people, namely family and friends. From the privacy perspective, it can be concluded that these actions not only have privacy implications for the Students, but also their friends and family, especially if appropriate privacy controls are not being used. Conversely, however, Table 6 shows that only a small number of the Students post information about others without their consent. This is taken as a very positive result.

Perhaps the most worrying result is that reflected in Table 7. The results show that 22% of the Students do not use privacy controls and a further 13% almost never use them. This means that the privacy of 35% of the Students, as regards their personal data on SNS, is at risk. The positive aspect to this statistic of course, is that 65% of the Students do use privacy controls, meaning that overall, there is a large awareness of the use of privacy controls in SNS. The Commissioner, however, still believes that 35% is a very high percentage given the age of the Students. It is highly recommended that this is addressed at all levels available.

On a positive note, Tables 8 and 9 do show that as regards mobile devices, the Students show a very high level of awareness as regards the use of available security measures. It is commonly known that the majority of, if not all, mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptops do provide for password protection either in the form of PINs, password and lately, facial and/or fingerprint recognition. The high percentages reflected in Tables 8 and 9 is a very welcome statistic.

It is noted that the survey was completed by students in Year 7, and the Commissioner is unable to comment on the user habits of students or children outside of the age range 11-12. It is, therefore, inappropriate to conclude that the results reflected below extend to children of other ages. Given the results, however, the Commissioner believes it appropriate, and to a certain extent necessary, to continue to establish user habits in SNS amongst children, in particular because of some of the worrying results already obtained.

RESULTS

The Tables 1-9 below provide the breakdown of the results, some of which are also presented graphically for ease of reference.

Table 1. Percentage of Year 7 Students using SNS

	Use SNS	Do not use SNS
% of students	92%	8%

Table 2. Percentage of student use per SNS

SNS	% of users
Facebook	74%
Snapchat	61%
Instagram	51%
WhatsApp	40%
Skype	37%
Twitter	30%
Google+	25%
Other	19%
Oovoo	11%
Pinterest	2%
MySpace	2%
Bebo	1%

Table 3. Breakdown of use by gender of the top 3 SNS

SNS	Male	Female
Facebook	70%	67%
Snapchat	47%	65%
Instagram	38%	55%

Table 4. Frequency of use vs. purpose of use

Purpose of Use	Every day	At least once a week	At least once a month	Hardly ever	Never
To post comments	26%	31%	7%	19%	17%
To post pictures	14%	31%	15%	25%	16%
To post videos	9%	12%	14%	39%	25%
Private messaging with friends	52%	24%	4%	8%	12%
Other	19%	9%	3%	12%	57%

Table 5. Breakdown of whom Year 7 students are posting comments, photographs and videos about

Subject	You	Family	Friends	Other
% of students	71%	45%	63%	18%

Table 6. Frequency of posting comments, pictures and videos about other people without their consent

Frequency	All the time	Regularly	Almost never	Never
% of students	4%	16%	34%	46%

Table 7. Breakdown of Year 7 students using available privacy controls in SNS

Frequency	All the time	Regularly	Almost never	Never
% of students	39%	26%	13%	22%

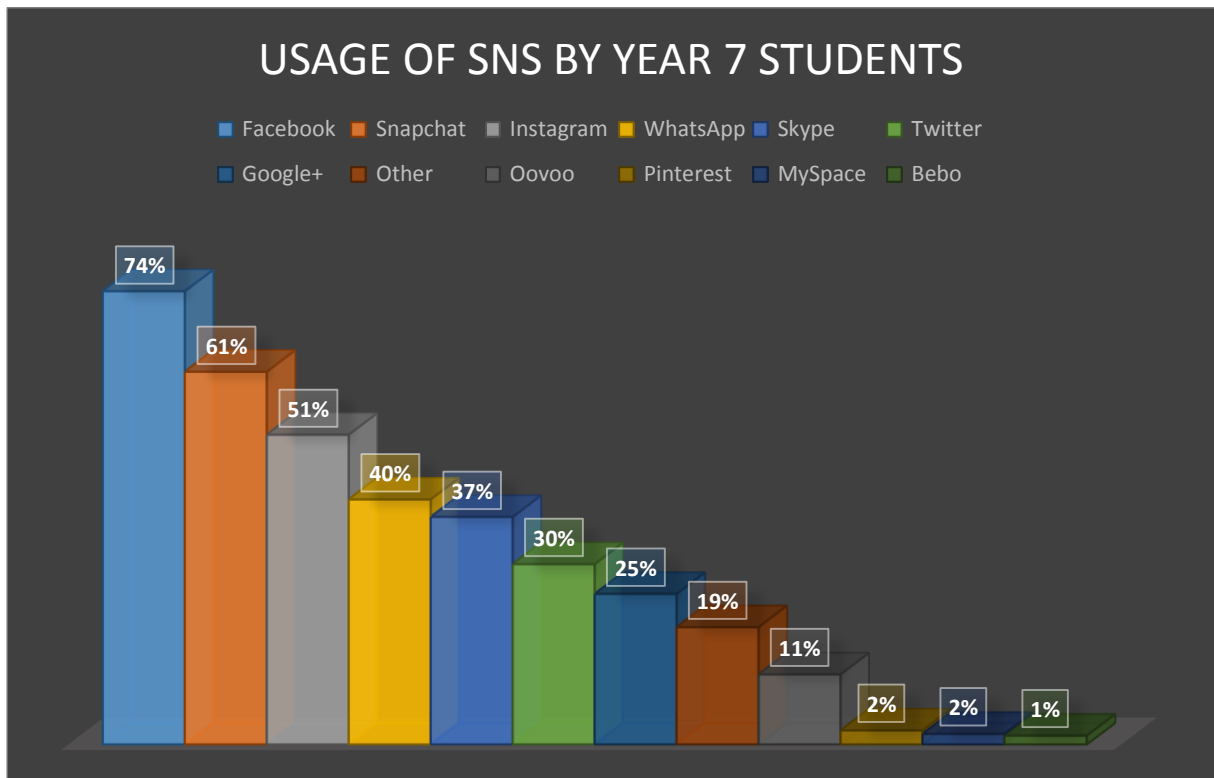
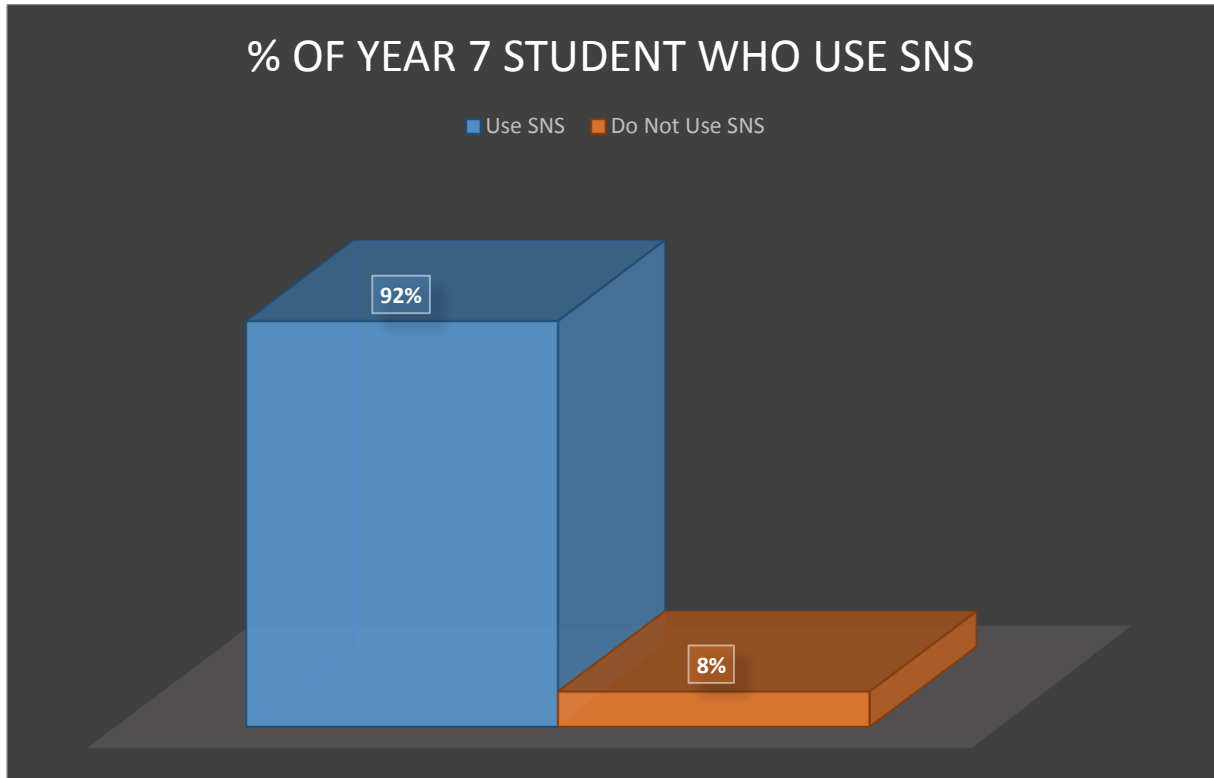
Table 8. Breakdown of Year 7 students using security features such as passwords, PIN, facial recognition on mobile devices

	Yes	No	Do not own a mobile device
% of students	89%	6%	5%

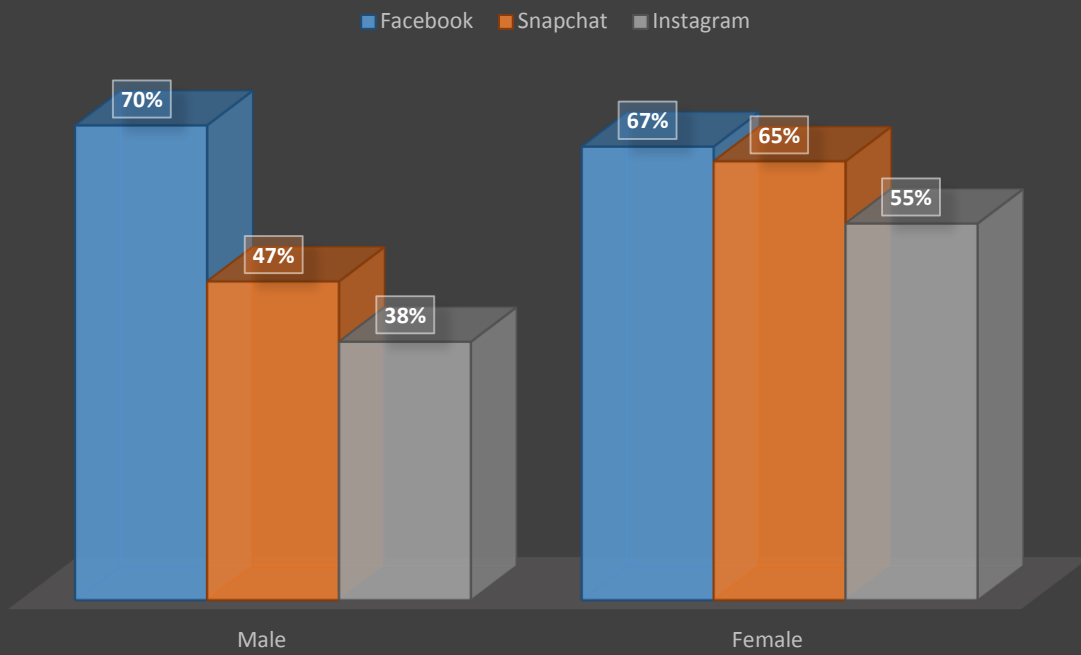
Table 9. Breakdown of Year 7 students using automatic lock feature on mobile devices

	Yes	No	Do not own a mobile device
% of students	83%	12%	5%

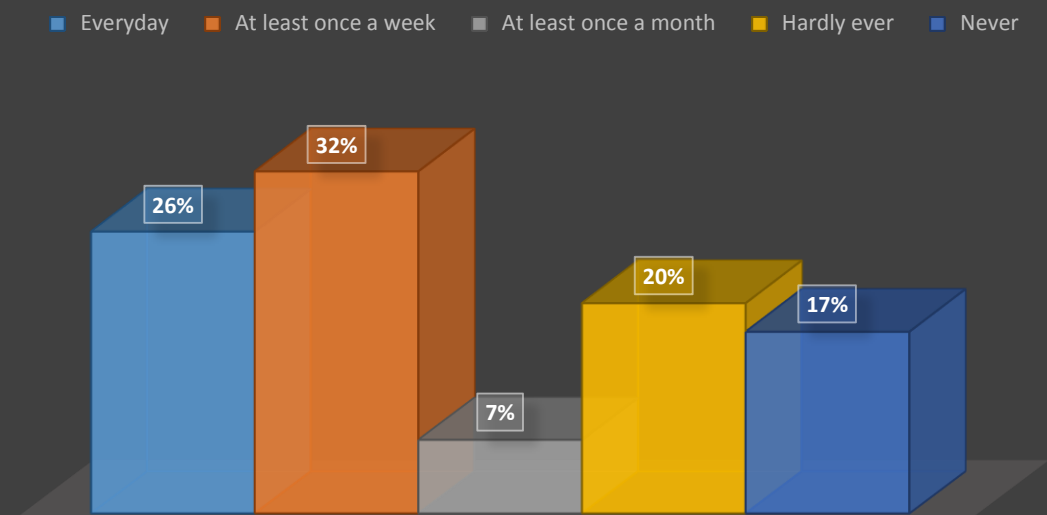
APPENDIX 1 - GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF RESULTS



BREAKDOWN OF USAGE BY GENDER

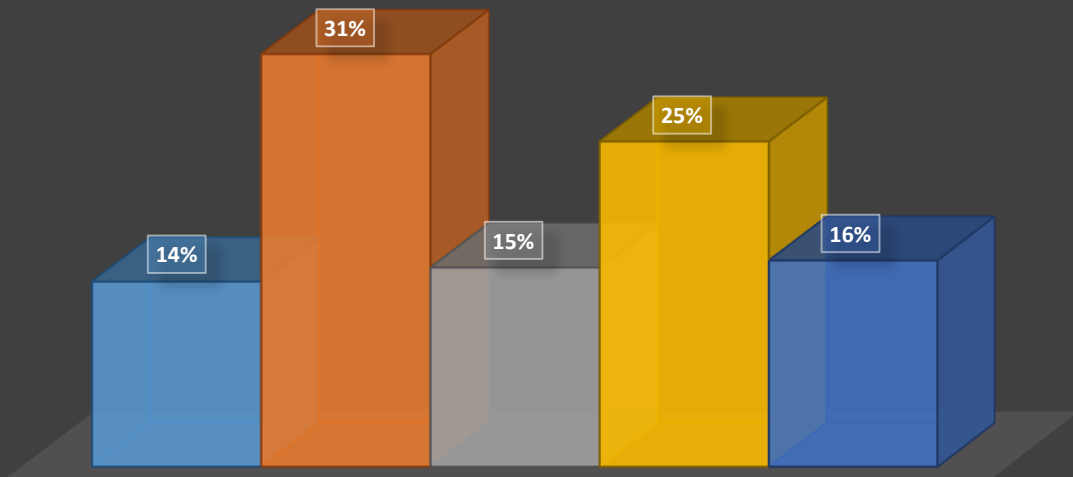


% OF STUDENTS VS FREQUENCY OF POSTING COMMENTS



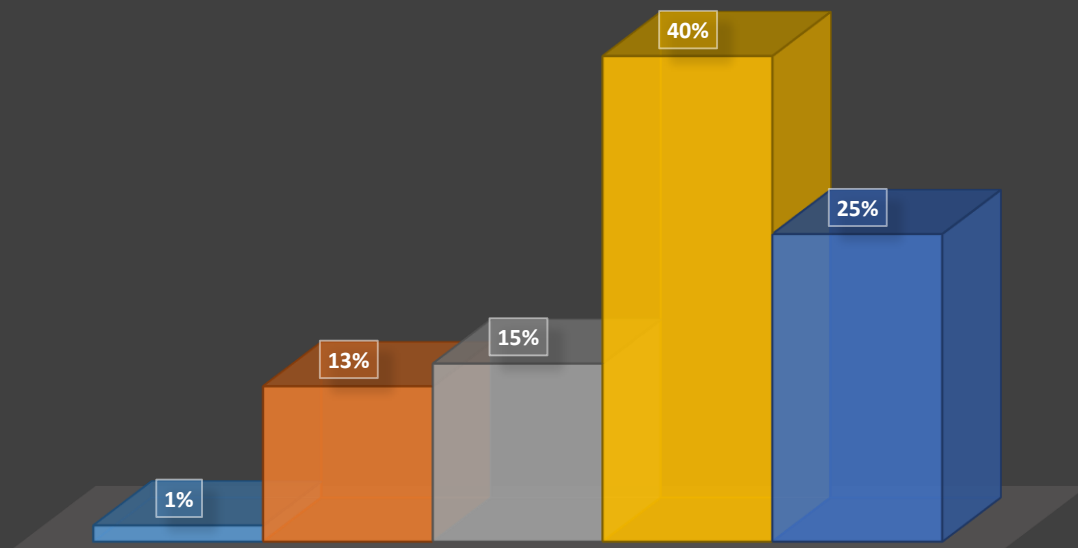
% OF STUDENTS VS FREQUENCY OF POSTING PHOTOGRAPHS

■ Everyday ■ At least once a week ■ At least once a month ■ Hardly ever ■ Never



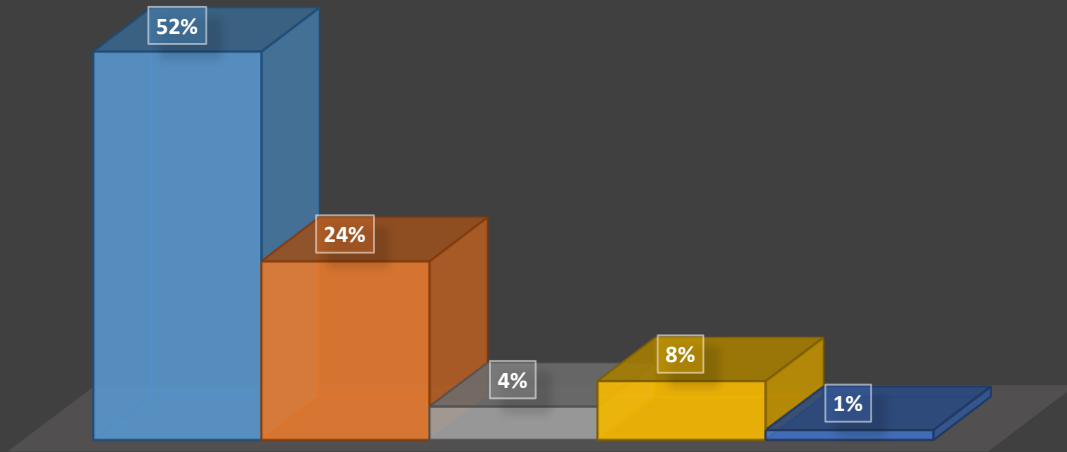
% OF STUDENTS VS FREQUENCY OF POSTING VIDEOS

■ Everyday ■ At least once a week ■ At least once a month ■ Hardly ever ■ Never



% OF STUDENTS VS FREQUENCY OF SENDING PRIVATE MESSAGES

■ Everyday ■ At least once a week ■ At least once a month ■ Hardly ever ■ Never



APPENDIX 2 – QUESTIONNAIRE



CONTROL YOUR PRIVACY – SCHOOLS QUESTIONNAIRE

Please tick the appropriate boxes.

4. Are you?	Male []	Female []
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5. What school year are you in?						
Yr 7 []	Yr 8 []	Yr 9 []	Yr 10 []	Yr 11 []	Yr 12 []	Yr 13 []

6. Do you use any of the following, and if so, which ones?				
Facebook []	WhatsApp []	Google Plus []	Twitter []	Snapchat []
Instagram []	Pinterest []	Myspace []	Bebo []	None []
Other, please specify _____				

7. If you use any of the above in question 3, what do you use it for, and how often?					
		<i>Every day</i>	<i>At least once a week</i>	<i>At least once a month</i>	<i>Hardly ever</i>
To post comments []	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
To post pictures []	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
To post videos []	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Private messaging with friends []	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
Other []	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
I do not use for any of the above []	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

8. If you post comments, pictures, videos, etc... who are they about?			
You []	Family []	Friends []	Other, please specify _____

Please turn over, more questions on back

9. Do you post comments, pictures, videos, etc... about other people (e.g. family and friends) without their knowledge?

All the time []

Regularly []

Almost never []

Never []

10. When you use any of the above in question 6, do you use the options available to control who can see your comments, pictures, videos, etc?

All the time []

Regularly []

Almost never []

Never []

11. Please indicate if you own any of the following mobile devices by ticking the appropriate boxes.

Smart phone []

Ipad []

Ipod []

Tablet []

Other

12. If you have a mobile device, do you use any feature to secure your device such as a password, pin, facial recognition, etc?

Yes []

No []

I don't own a mobile device []

13. If the answer to question 9 above is yes, does your device lock automatically after a few minutes, and need the password, pin, etc... to unlock?

Yes []

No []

I don't own a mobile device []