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Department of Education

Findings from Post Primary Students Questionnaire issued as an element of the overall consultation process for the development of the new Digital Strategy for Schools to 2027

Department of Education
April 2022

In order to ensure a comprehensive review of the existing Digital Strategy for Schools and to take account of new and emerging themes from the point of view of all relevant stakeholders, a wide ranging Consultation Framework was announced on 05 April 2021*. This framework consisted of

1. Open public call for written submissions
2. An easily accessible digital questionnaire for all teachers, principals and students
3. Focus groups on specific themes with main stakeholders (for e.g. education partners, industry, students, parents)
4. Establishment of a core Consultative Group, which included the management bodies, unions, parents' representative bodies and industry representatives. The Consultative Group met on a regular basis with other key stakeholders invited to attend depending on the themes discussed.
5. Bilateral meetings with other Departments and Agencies and the EU.

The following document sets out the responses received in relation to the post primary students questionnaire, which was available on the Departments and the gov.ie website from 25 May to 18 June. The responses received formed an integral part of the overall Consultation Framework and were key to development of the new Digital Strategy for Schools and will play a role in ensuring its successful implementation.

There was a total of 143 responses submitted. It is also worth noting that response levels varied for some of the questions.

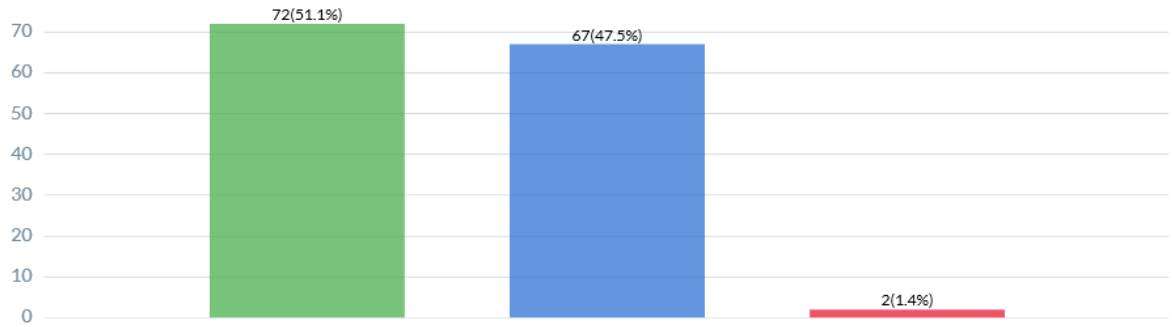
The student voice and voice of the child were central to the development of the new strategy and other methods were deployed including using existing frameworks for engagement as well as focus groups and representation on the Consultative Group to ensure all voices were heard. It is important to the overall process that a representative student group are heard with diverse backgrounds and this will be facilitated in the implementation of the strategy.

*<https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2021-press-releases/PR21-04-05.html>

FINDINGS

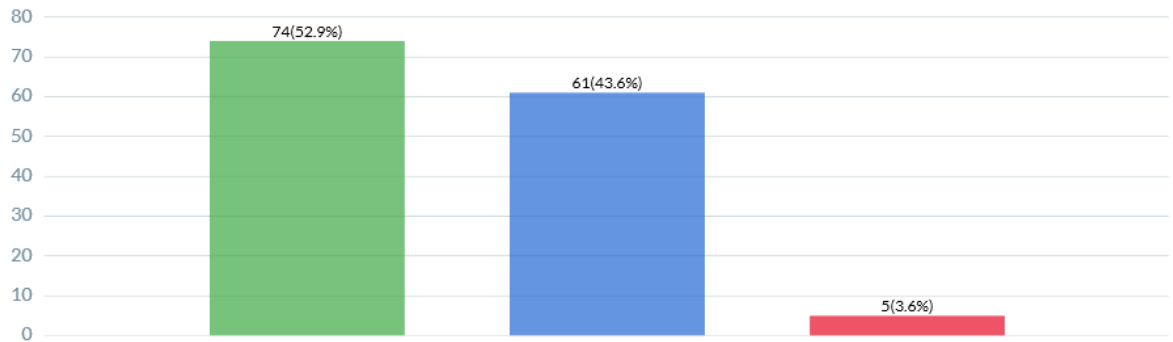
Q1 Do you enjoy using digital technologies to help you to learn?

■ Always ■ Sometimes ■ Never



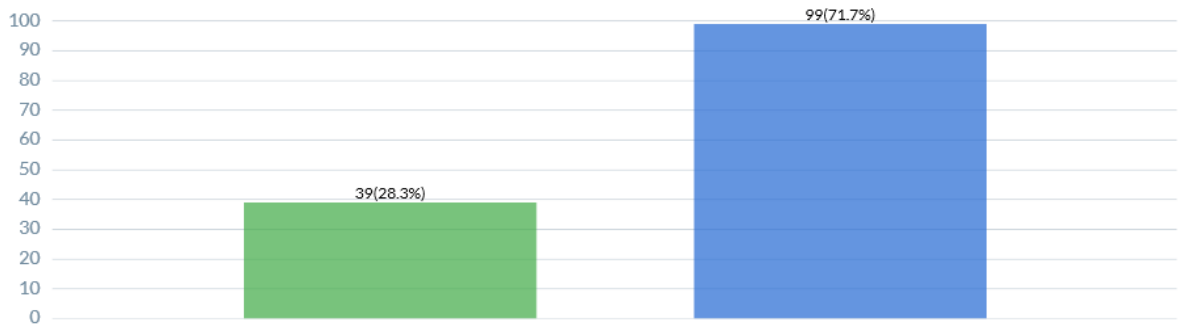
Q2 Are you confident using digital technologies to help you to learn?

■ Very confident ■ Confident ■ Not confident



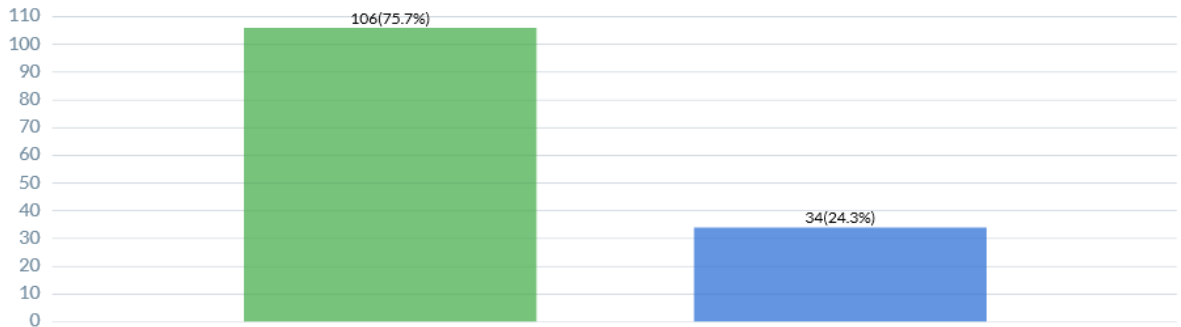
Q3 Have you or your fellow students been involved in the development of any policies on the use of digital technologies in your school?

■ Yes ■ No



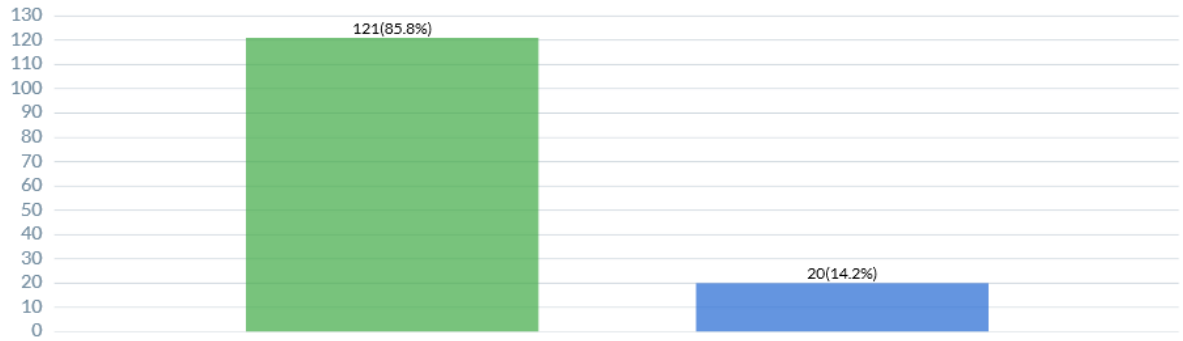
Q4 Does your school have reliable access to the internet for working on digital devices during class?

■ Yes ■ No



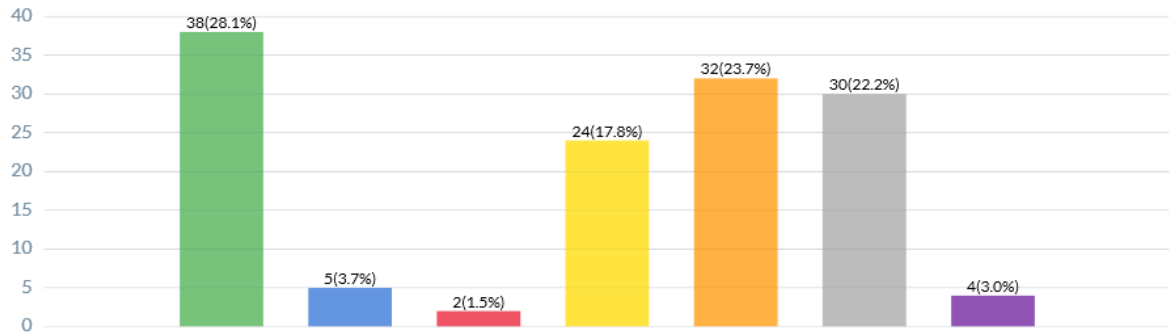
Q5 Do you have access to a digital device to use in school during class when needed?

■ Yes ■ No



Q6 Is the device a

■ Laptop ■ Desktop PC ■ Tablet ■ Chromebook ■ iPad ■ Smartphone ■ Other



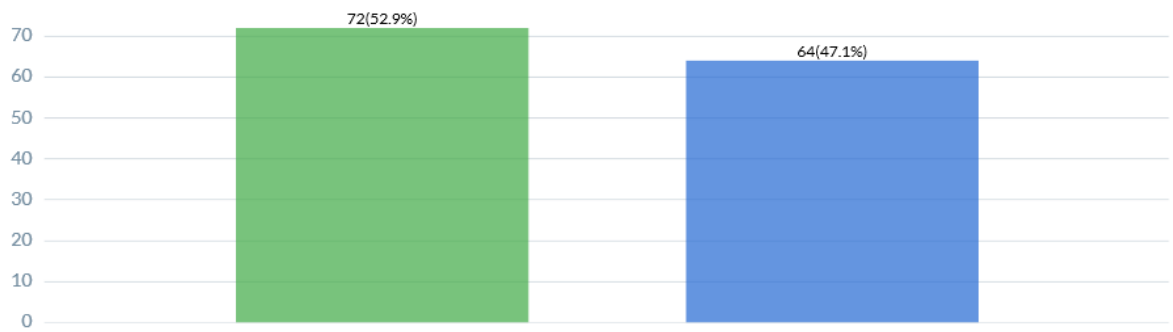
Q7 If you answered other, please specify.

Students responded as follows:

- PC/laptop for computer science but no devices for other subjects
- Phone and chromebook
- Laptop occasionally

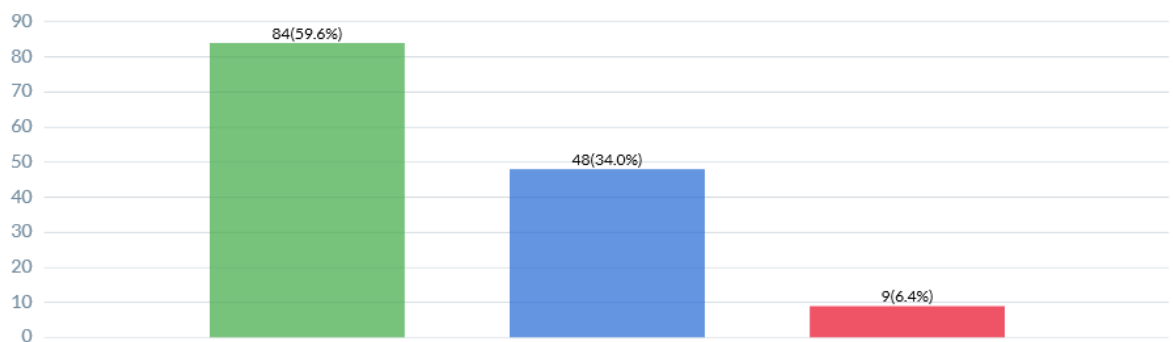
Q8 Is this device provided by:

■ The school ■ Yourself



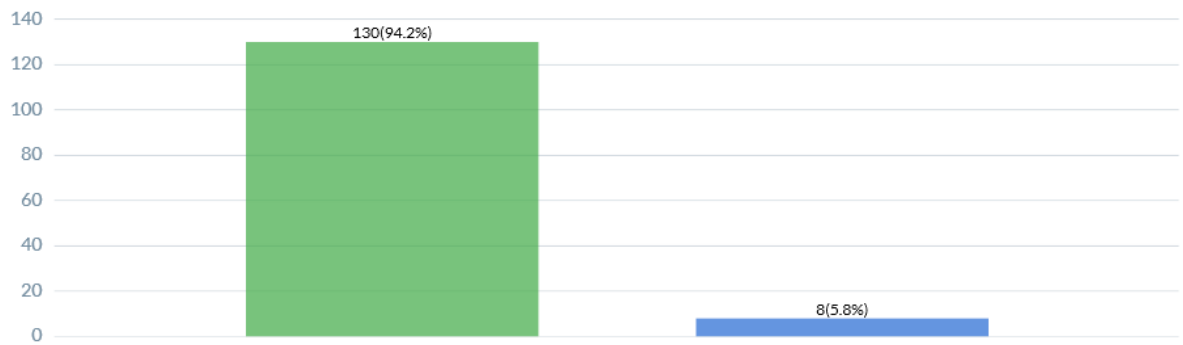
Q9 Do you need access to a device to help you study and do your homework?

■ Frequently ■ Sometimes ■ Rarely



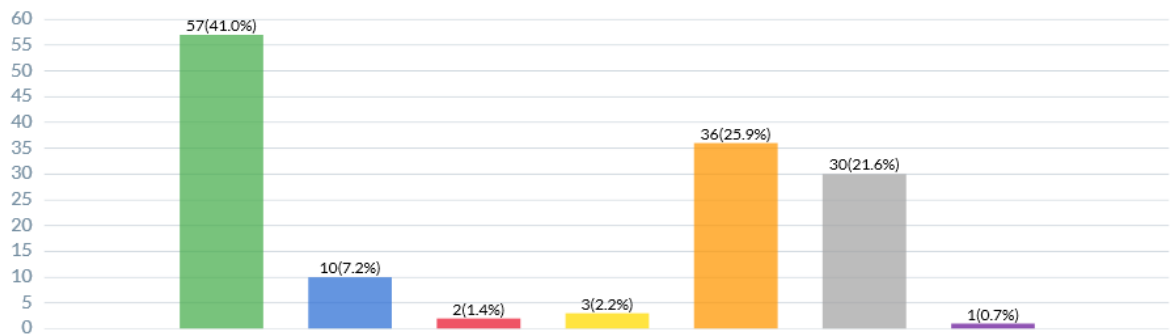
Q10 Do you have access to a device to use at home for schoolwork?

■ Yes ■ No



Q11 Is this device a

■ Laptop ■ Desktop PC ■ Tablet ■ Chromebook ■ iPad ■ Smartphone ■ Other

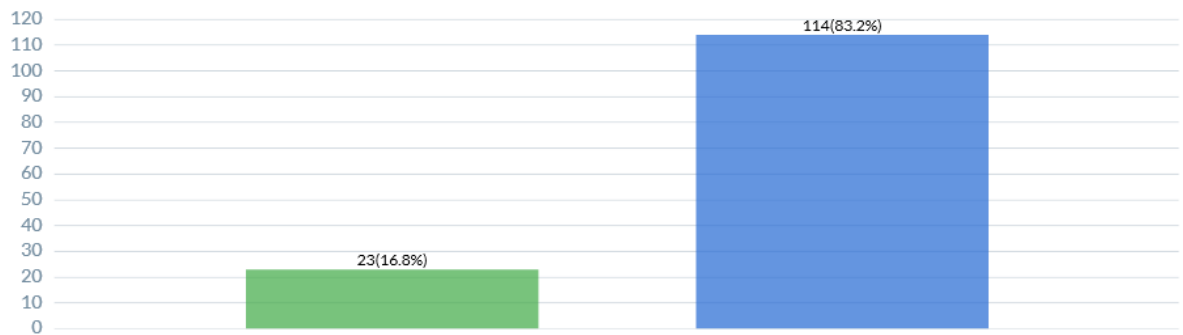


Q12 If you answered other, please specify.

Responses were iPad and smartphone.

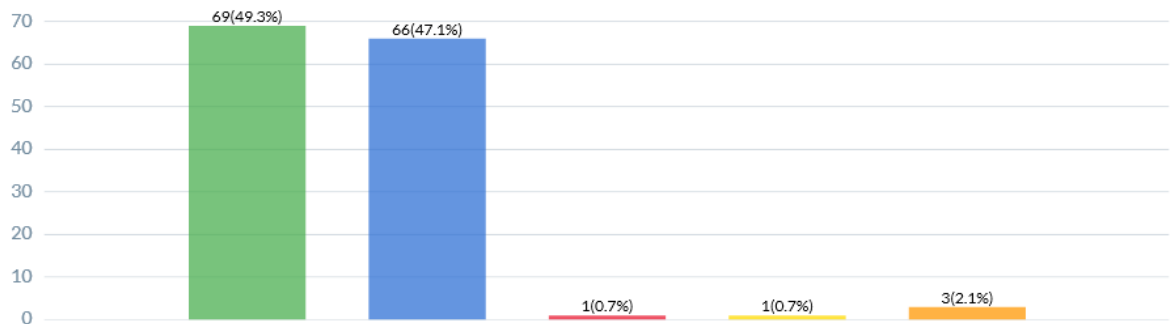
Q13 Is this device provided by:

■ The school ■ Yourself



Q14 If your school uses a platform for accessing or submitting homework which platform does it use?

■ Microsoft Education (Teams) ■ Google Classroom ■ Apple Education ■ Edmodo ■ Schoolology

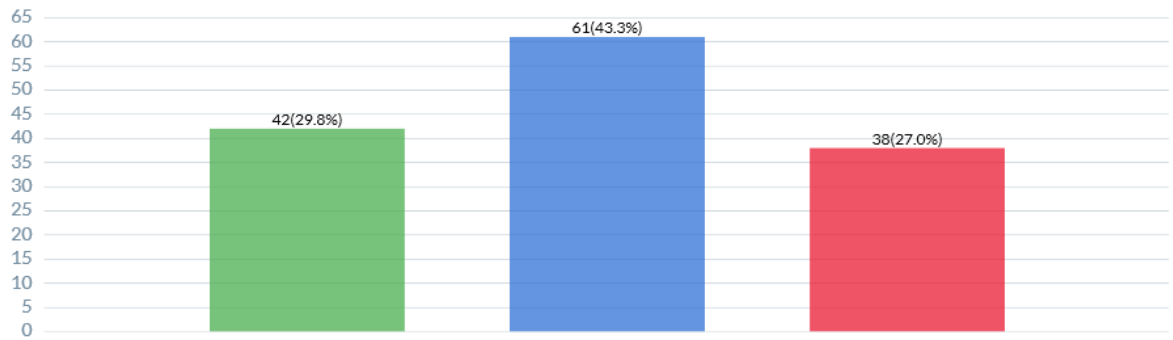


Q15 If you answered other, please specify.

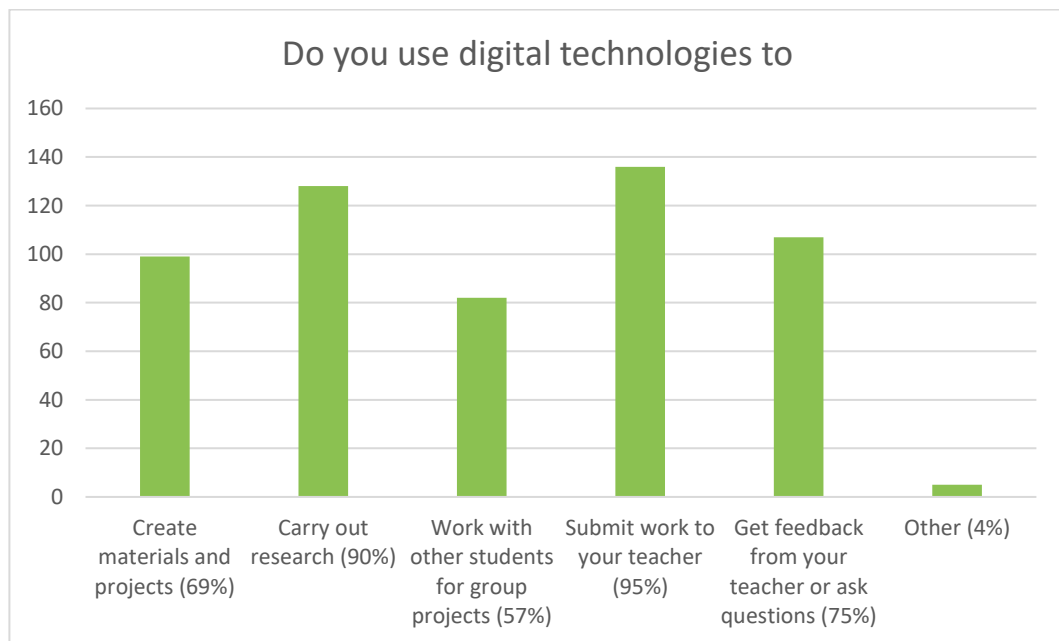
There was only one response, Onenote.

Q16 Do you use digital technology in learning for

■ All subjects ■ Most subjects ■ Some subjects



Q17

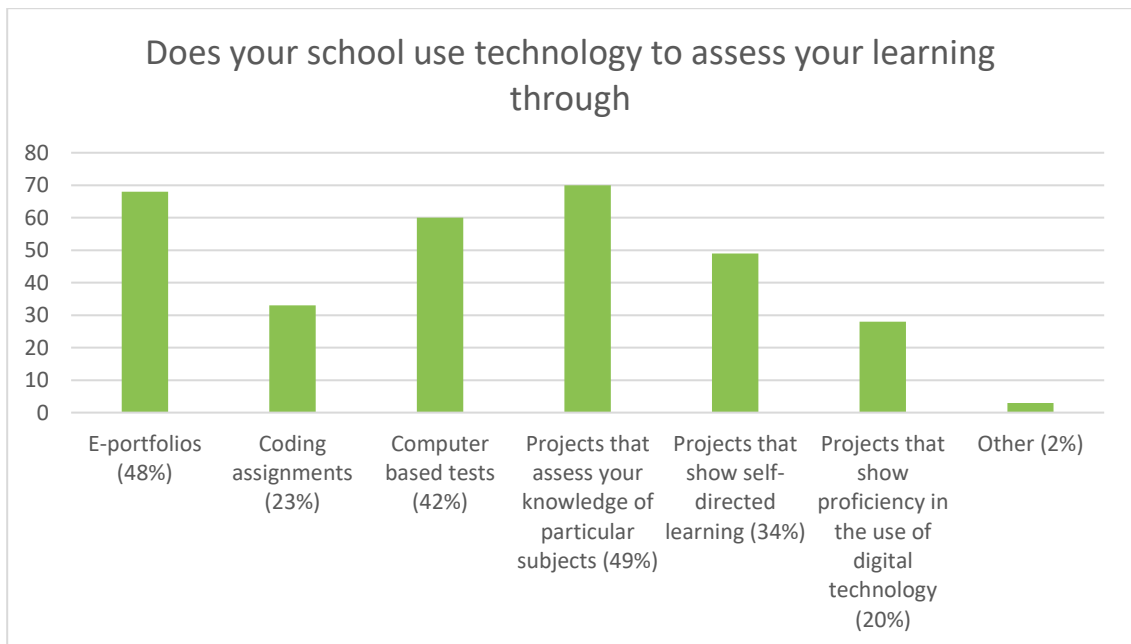


Q18 If you answered other, please specify.

Answers given were:

- Do exam papers
- Source additional information
- Store notes
- For teachers notes/powerpoints

Q19



Q20 If you answered other, please specify.

Students responded as follows:

- Computer based tests during lockdown
- Setting up assignments and putting up classwork to be done at home
- Work not assessed through technology, only homework submitted

Q21 How do you feel technology helps you learn?

Student responses were in the main positive:

- Very useful for research, sourcing additional material and finding alternative explanations which aided learning
- Convenient for storage and submission of work
- Good revision aid (past papers and solutions)
- Easier to work on, neater and less tiring than writing
- Accessible at any time, can work at their own pace

A few felt that it made work more complicated, could be distracting and found working from text books was easier.

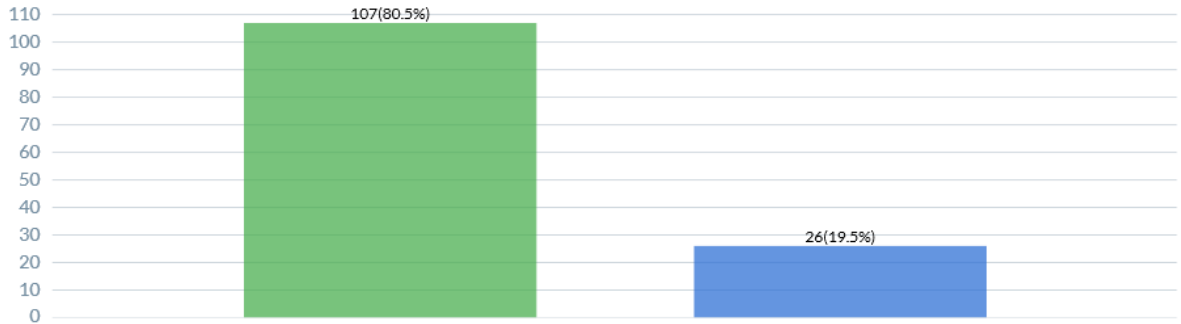
Q22 In your opinion, what, if any, disadvantages are there to using technology when learning?

Students raised the following as disadvantages:

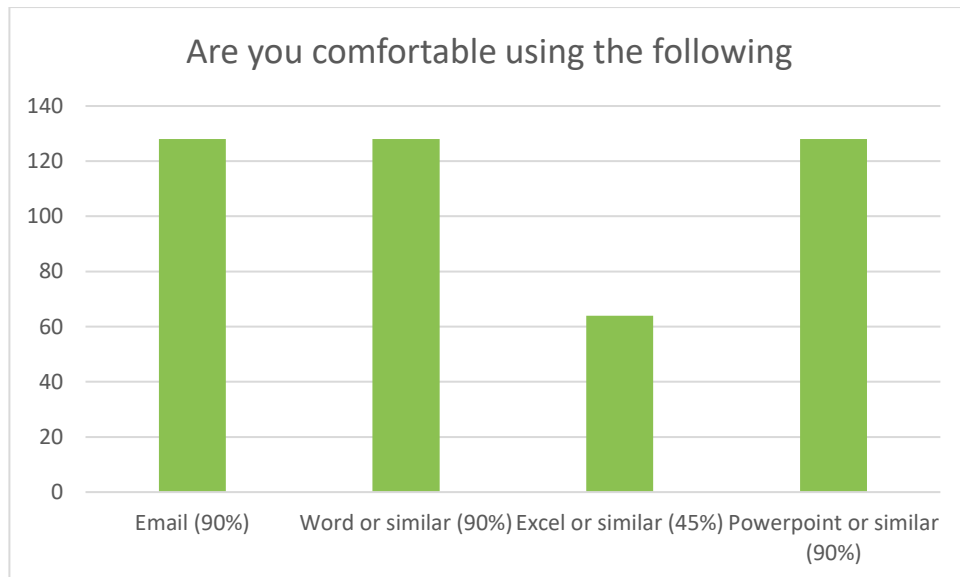
- It could be a distraction, too easy to navigate away from school work
- Poor broadband made work slow to impossible for some
- Sore eyes from all the screen time
- No clear separation between school-time and home-time

Q23 Would you like to use digital technology more in school to help you with your learning?

■ Yes ■ No



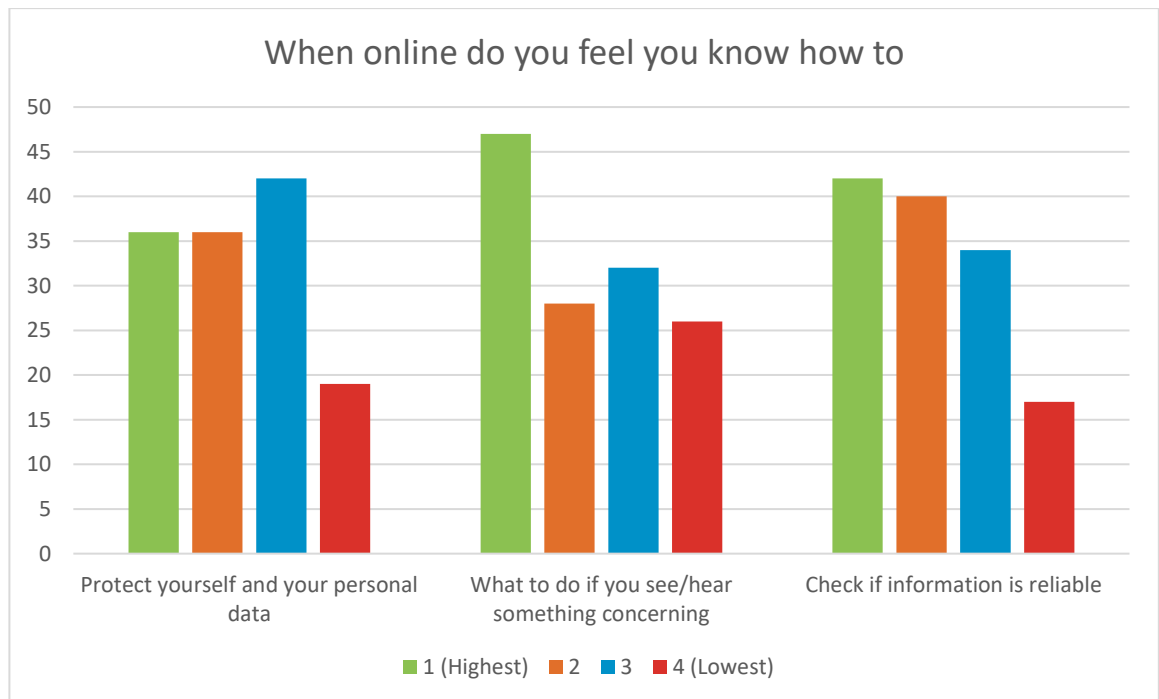
Q24



Q25 Are there any digital/technological skills you would like to develop further?

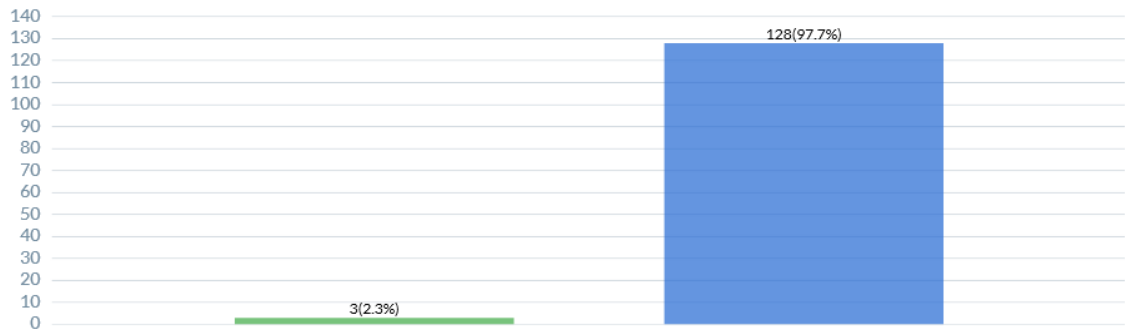
Coding (23%) and Excel (20%) were the most popular skills students wished to develop, many students did not have any skills they would like to develop further (25%). The remainder were broadly spread across various IT skills, email, typing, researching online, CAD, photoshop, movie creation and creative apps.

Q26 When interacting online do you feel that you know how to (rate 1-4, with 1 the highest)



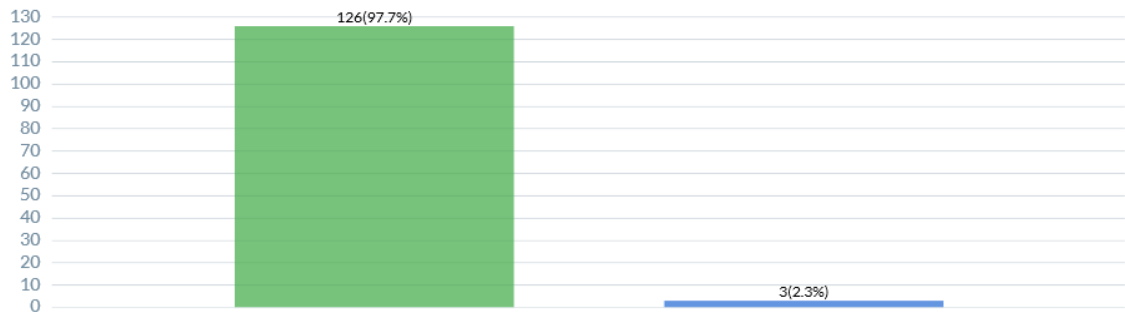
Q27 Do you use Webwise Youth Hub to be aware of how to be safe online?

■ Yes ■ No



Q28 Did you use a digital device to continue learning during the Covid-19 school closures?

■ Yes ■ No



Q29 Has remote learning online during Covid-19 changed how you think about using technology to learn? If so, how.

62% reported finding it beneficial with increased access to information and easier communication. 36% found it negatively impacted their learning preferring in person teaching and feeling isolated/disconnected and 2% didn't know.

Q30 Is there any particular area or subject a new Digital Strategy for Schools should include?

Most students had no opinion or didn't know, the other response were:

- Coding
- Fast broadband
- Access to devices
- Online safety