

# Ofcom children and parents media literacy tracker

Selected 2012 findings relating to parental controls

## Key findings (1)

### How many parents of children who use the internet have parental controls?

- 41% of parents whose child uses the internet at home say they have controls set or software loaded to stop their child viewing certain types of website

### Why are parental controls in the home? *[prompted, single code question]*

- The majority of parental controls either came already loaded (46%) or were installed as a precaution (43%). 8% of parents say they installed parental controls because someone in the household had seen something inappropriate online

### How parents heard about parental controls *[prompted, multicode question]*

- 40% of parents with parental controls say they heard about them from a friend or relative and 27% heard about them from their ISP. 8% heard about it in the media and 4% heard about it from the child's school

Source: Ofcom children's media literacy tracker. survey, 2012

## Key findings (2)

### Reasons why parents don't have parental controls *[prompted, multicode question]*

- 48% of parents without parental controls say that is because they trust their child to be sensible/responsible. This increases substantially with the age of the child.
- 39% say that their child is always supervised.
- 14% say their child learns how to be safe at school (7% of 5-7s v 14% of 8-11s v 17% of 12-15s)
- 12% say that their child hasn't come across anything of concern online
- 8% say their child is too young for parental controls (36% of 5-7s compared to 6% of 8-11s and 0% of 12-15s)
- 8% say their child is too old for PC (16% of 12-15s v 1% of 5-7s and 2% of 8-11s)
- 6% say they weren't aware of them
- 6% say their child would find a way round the controls (11% of 12-15s)
- 4% say that setting controls would prevent other family members accessing what they want
- 3% say they used to have them but have now stopped using them

Source: Ofcom children's media literacy tracker. survey, 2012