

Beat: Technology

## 6 IN 10 PARENTS CHECK THEIR CHILD S SMARTPHONE

### A QUARTER ARE SHOCKED BY WHAT THEY FIND

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**USPA NEWS** - Six in ten worried parents monitor their children's phones to see what they're up to online, according to new research by internet and mobile security expert BullGuard . In London, the study of 2,000 parents revealed that one in five do not trust their children online...

Six in ten worried parents monitor their children's phones to see what they're up to online, according to new research by internet and mobile security expert BullGuard . In London, the study of 2,000 parents revealed that one in five do not trust their children online and suspect they are accessing inappropriate content, with a quarter saying they were shocked by what they found after reading through emails, Facebook posts and instant messages.

Some of the findings :

- Over a third of worried mums and dads admit they look at their kids' emails, while nearly four in ten read through their instant messages on apps such as Kik, Snapchat and WhatsApp.
- Just over 55 % look at their internet history, while 55 % also check text messages.
- More than a third of parents look at their children's pics on Facebook and Instagram to see what they are up to.
- Checking up on their internet activities is so routine that mums and dads spend on average one hour 45 minutes every week looking at their kids' devices.
- Half of parents sneak a peek while their kids are asleep, a quarter do it when they are at school and nearly a third do it whenever their children are not looking.
- Despite this, four in ten admit they are wracked with guilt for spying on them after they had found perfectly innocent messages.
- Over one in ten admitted that their children know more about social media than they do and could "run rings around them".
- As a result nearly 56 per cent have rules in place about when their kids can access their smartphones or tablets.
- The number one rule set by parents is "no gadgets at the dinner table". The second is they must know their children's passwords and number three is "no gadgets at bedtime".
- Four in ten said they were alarmed to see their children discussing sex or sexual content, while a quarter found evidence of their child being bullied.
- Nearly half found them using offensive language
- Close to four in ten feel like they have little or no control over their children's online activities.
- And over a third think their children could be up to "anything" online when they are claiming to be using the web for homework.

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Source : BullGuard

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