

# CONCLUSIONS

Japanese children score relatively low across the board, ranking last for communicating a problem, for engaging critically with risky content and contacts online, and for using digital skills to respond to risk. However,

children in Japan consistently face less risk when online when compared to their peers in other countries. This is highlighted most effectively by only 6% having been approached online by a stranger (compared to 23% on average) and 2% having been bullied when online (compared to 17% on average).

In Japan the issue of child online protection has been taken up at cabinet level, with mandatory filters present on mobile phones for users under 18 (unless parents opt out), and the regulation of child inappropriate content (OECD, 2012).

These regulations may have worked so far as the instances of risk exposure for Japanese children are really low when compared to the Asia Pacific average. However, despite coming across less risk, the low levels of digital literacy and online resilience present amongst Japanese children as a result of content filtering leaves them without the necessary skills required to avoid risk in the future.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Japanese strategy places an emphasis on the control of internet content. As a result, this report recommends to include enhanced digital literacy and internet safety education in school curricula, and to foster extra-curricular activities promoting responsible use.

Moreover, it recommends to minimise overreaching content filters that might undermine a child's access to information.

## THE RESEARCH

This multinational research explores the role of digital resilience intended as the ability to prevent and respond to online risk, and in providing children with the skills and characteristics needed to navigate the internet safely.

Analysing the findings from children aged 9-18 in Indonesia, Japan, Australia, South Korea and Taiwan; it investigates the ways in which young people can be encouraged to be resilient users.

## ABOUT THINKYOUNG

ThinkYoung is the first think tank dedicated to young people.

Founded in 2007, ThinkYoung has expanded to have offices in Brussels, Geneva and Hong Kong. It is a not for profit organisation with the aim of making the world a better place for young people, by involving them in the decision making process and by providing decision makers with high quality research on youth conditions. Think Young produces research papers, surveys, documentary movies and education programs.

As of today, ThinkYoung projects have reached over 600,000 young people.

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# DIGITAL RESILIENCE EMPOWERING YOUTH ONLINE

Practices for a safer internet use.  
A major survey targeting Australia, Japan, Indonesia, Korea, and Taiwan.

## COUNTRY BRIEFING: JAPAN



# INTRO

The following country profile presents the key findings from Japanese children in response to a survey investigating the role of digital resilience in positively impacting children's online engagement. Shedding light on how a digitally resilient young person responds to potentially risky online content, the research investigates the ways in which young people can be encouraged to be resilient users when online through the


analysis of data from Indonesia, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan.


The survey targeted children and young people between the ages of 9-18 and was administered in two parts: the first directly to respondents above the age of 16, and the second with the consent of parents (9-16 years!).

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

In response to the growing policy debate between online risk and opportunity, the following research aimed to shed light on child attitudes in dealing with online risk. Moreover, a focus was placed on integrating safety concerns with the promotion of a positive uptake of online opportunities for children, through the concept of 'digital resilience'.

Based on the survey administered, this research has first measured levels of digital resilience by analysing the responses adopted by young people to varying online risks. From these results, it has then sought to **investigate how children prevent and react to online risk, taking into account:**

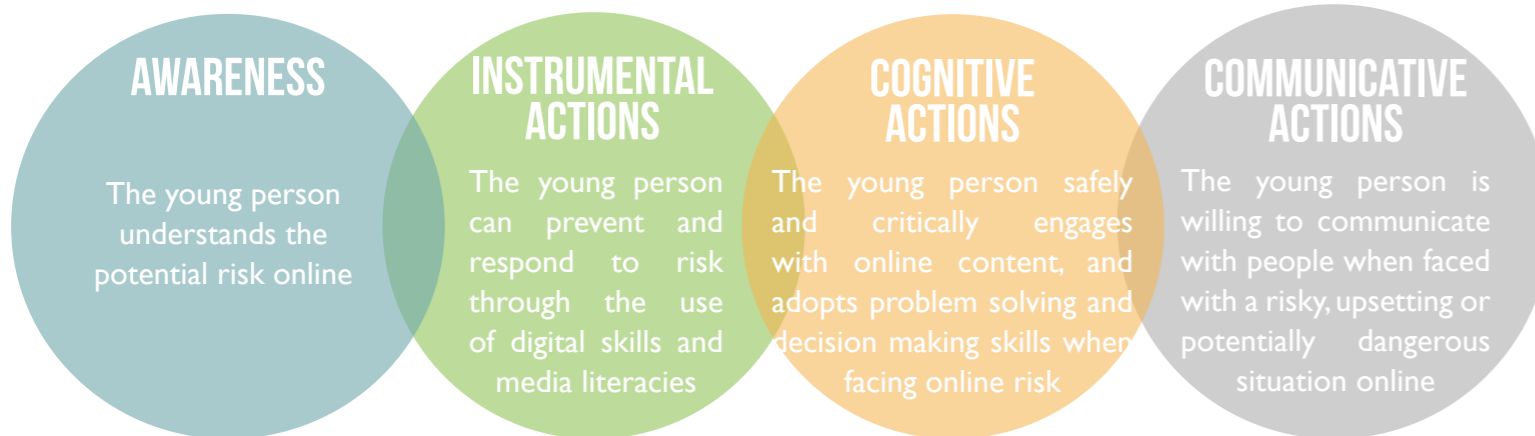
 The impact of awareness and self-regulation in understanding the potential for risk, and in engaging with online content in a resilient manner.

 How children and young people can enhance their levels of resilience through communication and from seeking advice.


 The role of media skills and digital literacies in improving resilience, and the types of responses used by technologically adept young people.


## WHAT IS DIGITAL RESILIENCE?

Drawing on the most prevalent scientific literature on resilience, the report presents the fundamental characteristics of the ideal digitally resilient young person, encapsulated by:



The concept of digital resilience includes both a preventive and reactive phase where at first young people are able to self-regulate and avoid online risk and, when faced with risk, are able to employ coping mechanisms in order to respond to the risk or harmful situation in a problem focused manner.

 **PREVENTIVE RESILIENCE**  
Resilience strategies employed to avoid risk including instrumental (using technical skills to avoid risk) and behavioural (avoiding risk through specific safety behaviours and online awareness).

 **REACTIVE RESILIENCE**  
Resilience strategies adopted after coming into contact with an online risk. These include:

- 1 Instrumental (using technical skills).
- 2 Confrontational (confronting the source of the risk).
- 3 Communicative (seeking advice).
- 4 Disengagement (ignoring the risk).

<sup>1</sup>In gaining parental permission for the 9-16 year olds a very clear statement of intent was given to parents/guardians in advance, outlining the exact purpose of the study, sharing the exact questions and giving assurances that the data would be treated anonymously.

## KEY FINDINGS

Children in Japan are less confident in preventing risk through instrumental and behavioural actions than their peers, with 58% likely to modify privacy settings to avoid unwanted contacts (compared to an average of 70% in the Asia Pacific region). However, amongst all Japanese children, only 28% had been exposed to inappropriate content (compared to 43% on average). Likewise, only 67% are likely to keep their password completely secret, compared to an average of 85%.

Similarly, when responding to risk Japanese children are less confident using digital skills compared to children in the other countries, with 34% who would change their password when personal information is misused. Once again, only 13% of the children surveyed had experienced this risk (compared to an average of 21%).

While only 2% had experienced cyber-bullying, among the top reactions to deal with this risk, 35% of children in Japan would seek advice from a parent/guardian and 26% would delete the contact.

Children in Japan are relatively comfortable in disengaging from risk with 46% stating they would immediately ignore a stranger who contacted them online. Contrastingly, however, 23% replied they do not know what they would do. Amongst all Japanese children, only 6% had experienced this risk.

Young people in Japan show a critical awareness in their use of the internet, with 80% very careful or somewhat careful about what they say or post online, and 54% avoiding suspicious material.

Children in Japan are likely to keep their password completely secret



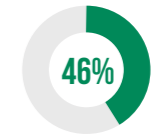
Children in Japan change their password when personal information is misused



Children in Japan would seek advice from a parent/guardian on how to deal with a bully



Children in Japan would immediately ignore a stranger who contacted them online



Children in Japan are very careful about what they say or post online



## THE ONLINE RESILIENT YOUNG PERSON

The graphical representation below illustrates how well children in Japan fare in comparison to the ideal digitally resilient young person, who would score 3 points in each area of resilience. Each child obtains a score from 0 to 3 depending on how many cognitive, instrumental and communicative strategies he or she is likely to adopt. It also compares the results in relation to the average resilience scores from the APAC region.

