



Key findings

Index Score: 57

Access is the now lowest-scoring pillar in the Digital Youth Index and a top priority for improvement.

Our research suggests that **14% of all young people lack access to a learning device** (a laptop or desktop computer). This equates to **2 million young people across the UK**.

Nearly 570,000 young people lack both a learning device and home internet connection. This has worrying implications for educational equality and social mobility.

ACCESS

The Access pillar looks at access to the critical devices required to use the internet. These vary between different groups of young people based on their needs.

This year, we're particularly concerned with access to devices for learning and careers.

ACCESS TO LEARNING DEVICES THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVICES FOR LEARNING AND CAREERS

Last year's Digital Youth Index identified 'critical devices', including smartphones, tablets, laptops and desktop computers.

Whilst smartphones still top the list as the most accessible device and are critical for socialising and online services, this year we want to focus on learning devices – laptops and desktops, and, for younger age groups, tablets. This is because of their importance to education and career readiness.

53% of young people say that using the internet has a positive impact on their schoolwork, which rises to 57% of secondary school children. Yet not all young people have access to devices that can connect them to the internet, with some sub-groups of young people most badly affected by lack of access.