

Building Resilience to Disinformation in a Digital Media Age

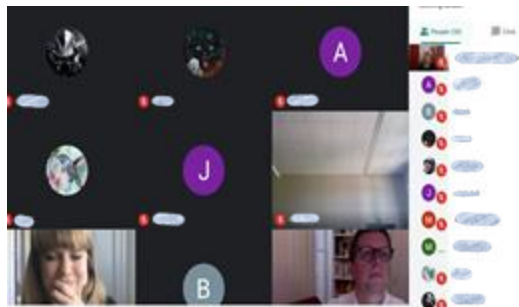
8 July 2021

Lie Detectors Data Briefing 2021

www.lie-detectors.org



Lie Detectors
CRITICAL THINKING



Key Questions

What momentum is there in classrooms and how can we create multipliers?

How are children and adults changing their use of online information, and how does this impact media literacy and policy debates?

How do kids respond to media literacy work and how can we measure this?



Basic Data



15101
pupils
aged 10 to 15



726
teachers



1065
classrooms



**2017-
2020**



4 countries
DE, BE, AT, LU
3 languages
EN, DE, FR







230+
journalists

Pupil responses: 13,119 pupil responses pre-Covid; 1,982 since March 2020. Teacher responses: 639 before Covid; 107 since March 2020.



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Detailed numbers behind our analysis

| Datasets |  Classroom visits |  schoolchildren |  teachers |  journalists |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| ALL DATA 2017 through 2020 | 1065 | 15101 | 726 teachers (746 responses) | 230 |
| "Pre-Covid" data 2017- March 2020 | 879 | 13119 | 639 | |
| "Covid-Era" data Apr 2020–Dec 2020 | 136 | 1982 | 107 | |
| Covid-Era Subset 1 Apr-July2020) | 57 | 408 | 37 | |
| Covid-Era Subset 2 Oct - Dec 2020 | 79 | 1574 | 74 | |

Academic guidance on questionnaire design



Divina Frau-Meigs
Professor, Unesco Chair

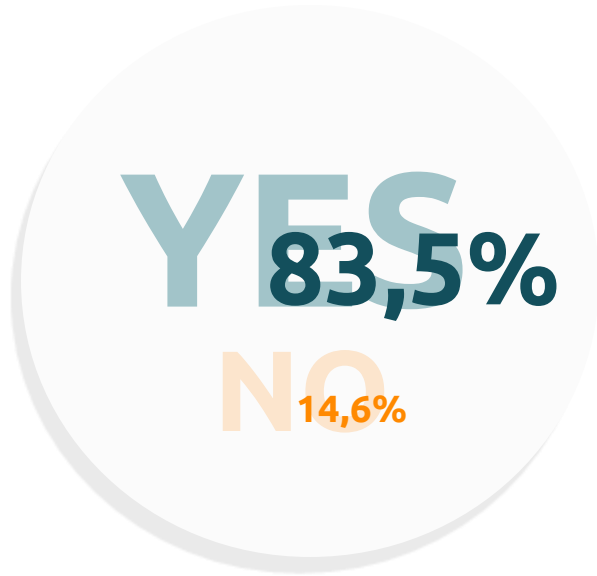


Stephan Lewandowsky
Chair in Cognitive Psychology

1. Engagement and Momentum



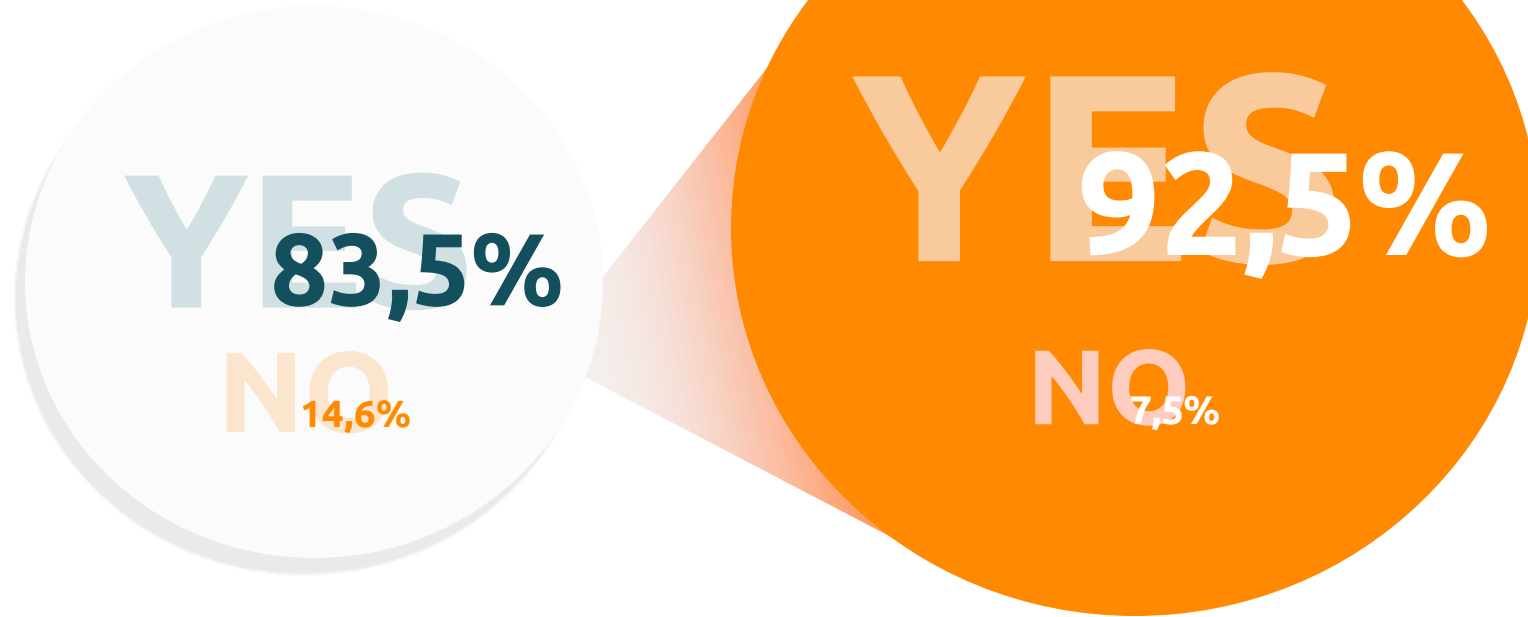
Do schoolchildren think media literacy is a relevant topic for the classroom?



All Data (2017-2020)

Question: "Do you think it is important to talk about today's theme (disinformation and journalism) at school?", "Do you think it is important to learn about disinformation or "fake news" at school?" - Y/N answers from 12,102 schoolchildren aged 10-15

Do students think media literacy is a relevant topic for the classroom during the pandemic?



Covid-Era Subset 1 04-07/2020

Question "Do you think it is important to learn about disinformation or "fake news" at school?"- Y/N answers from 292 schoolchildren aged 10-15

Teachers' feedback



99,4%
of the teachers liked
the session

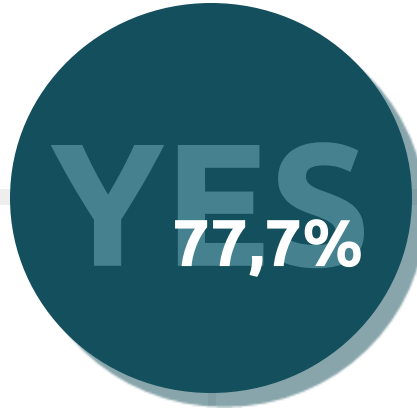
All Data (2017-2020)

Question: "Would you recommend the visit of Lie Detectors/the research missions/ our project to other teachers?" Y/N answers from 656 teachers

Teacher view of media literacy as an important topic

Covid-Era

Pre-Covid



Pre-Covid - 2017-03/2020
Covid-Era - 04/2020-12/2020

Questions: "Have you heard from other sources (school authorities, etc.) about the need to teach children to be media literate?" Y/N answers from 523 teachers - Pre-Covid - 2017-03/2020
"Do you think critical media literacy and disinformation is an important subject that your class should discuss at school?" Y/N answers from 74 teachers - Covid-Era - 04/2020-12/2020

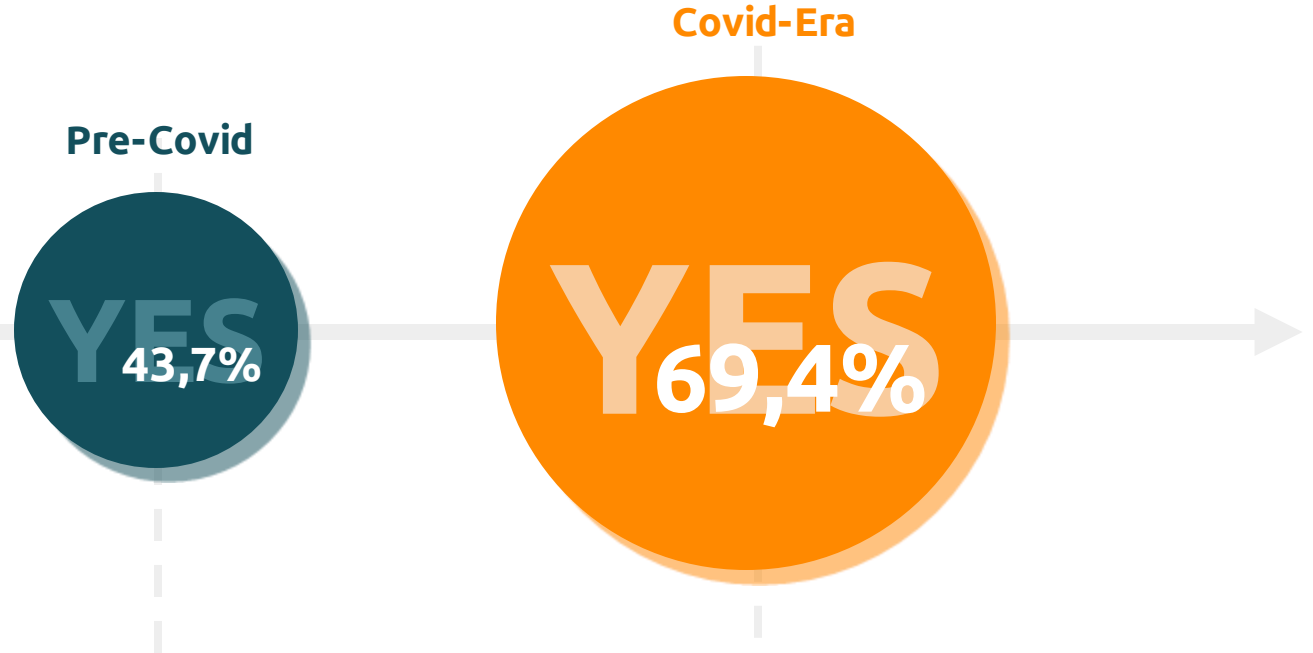
What teaching subject does this topic belong to?



All Data (2017-2020)

Question: "Into what subject does this lesson fit best?" answers from 622 teachers

Teachers increasingly teach this subject

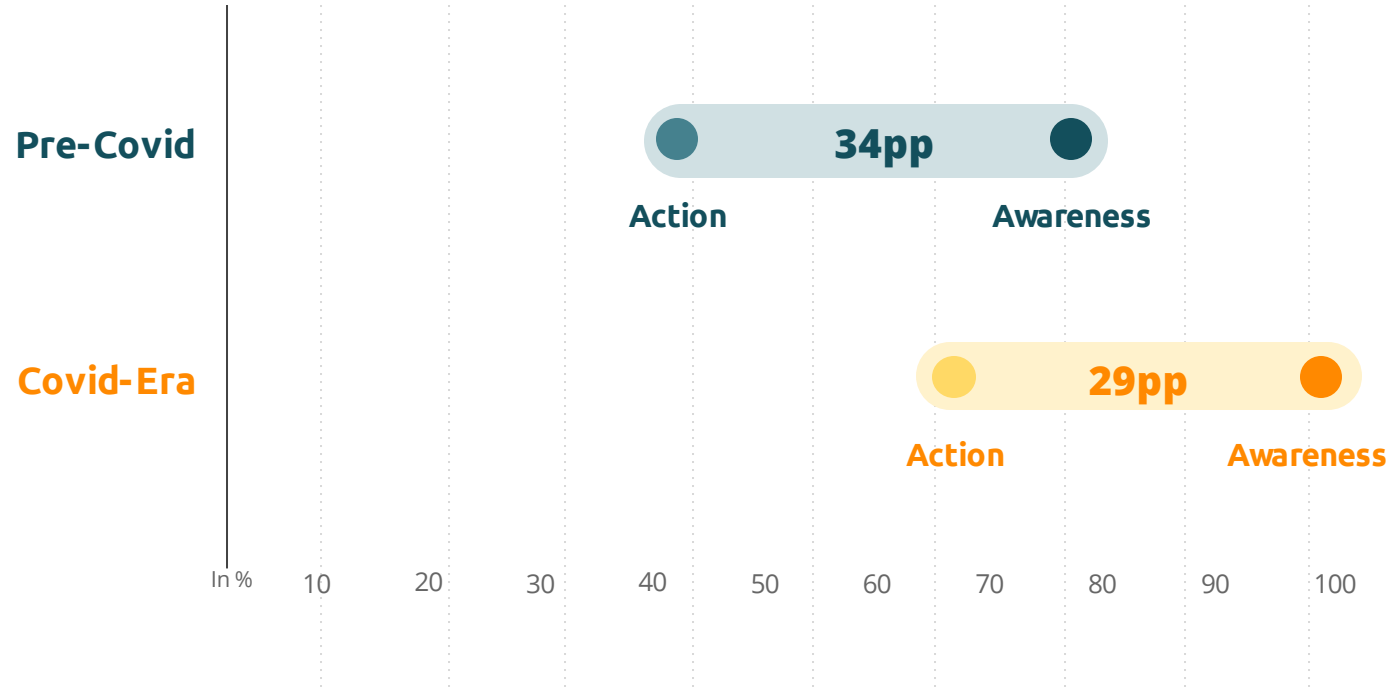


Pre-Covid - 2017-03/2020

Covid-Era - 04/2020-12/2020

Questions: "Before the visit of the journalist, did you talk to your class about media literacy?" Y/N answers from 508 teachers - Pre-Covid - 2017-03/2020
"Before the research mission, did you talk to your class about media literacy?" Y/N answers from 37 teachers - Covid-Era Subset 1 - 04-07/2020
"Have you spoken with your class about critical media literacy and disinformation before?" Y/N answers from 74 teachers - Covid-Era Subset 2 - 09-12/2020

Unfulfilled potential



Pre-Covid - 2017-03/2020
Covid-Era - 04/2020-12/2020

Children respond

How was this project different from regular school work?

Comparing information across multiple sources and online media.

"We had to do a lot of research. At school we usually just get instructions." 14-year-old, Perl, Germany.

Deeper, longer and more autonomous research than normally.

"It challenged us to think outside the box." 15-year-old, Luxembourg.

"We had to come with our own solutions and ideas," 13-year-old, Ganshoren, Belgium.

Unusual to address social media or "fake news" at school.

"At school we don't talk much about media or learn to compare fake news and real news." 14-year-old, Perl, Germany.

"This work is more helpful for life than for school." 12-year-old, Salzburg,

Austria.

Learning practical tools to use for online searches.

"We used tablets and phones and learned how to check images with a reverse search." 10-year-old, Dormagen, Germany.

Covid-Era Subset 2 09-12/2020

Question: "How was our news challenge different from other work you do at school?" Most frequently recurring answers arising from 1557 schoolchildren aged 10-15, 1051 (67,5%) said it was different, 409 (26,3%) said it was not different, 97 (6,2%) did not answer the question



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Findings

What do pupils want to know?

How do

**JOURNALISTS
WORK**

Why does

**FAKE NEWS
EXIST**

Unravelling and addressing

**CONSPIRACY
THEORIES**

How to react to

**CHAIN
LETTERS**

How to do a
**REVERSE
IMAGE
SEARCH**

How to spot

**FALSE POSTS
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

How is

**NEWS
PRODUCED**

Covid-Era Subset 1 04-07/2020

Questions: Trends of questions by approx 300 pupils to journalists during video calls, and 319 pupil responses to "Which of the following topics would you like to know about more?" with multiple answers permitted.



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“The parents say they love we’re doing this. They say it’s important their children get these tools.”

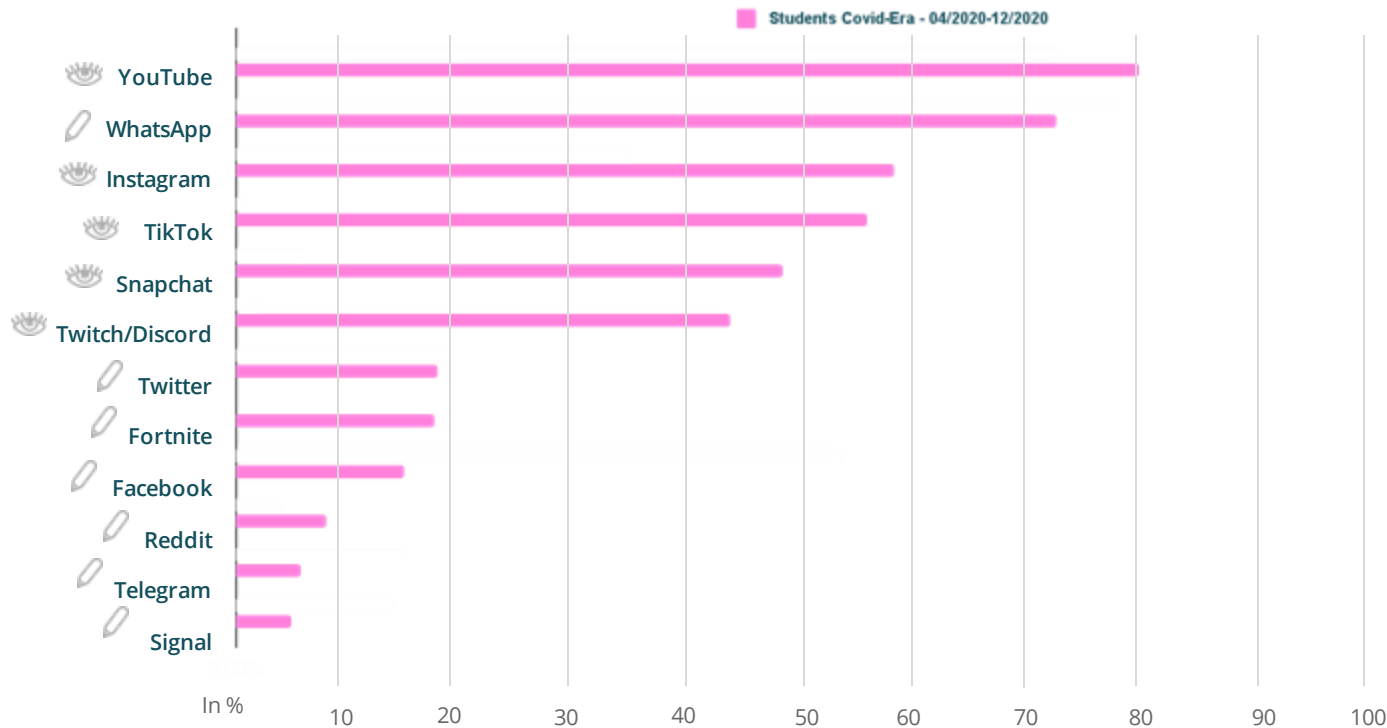


Anne Scheunemann, primary school teacher, Berlin, April 2020

2. Data usage & generational gap



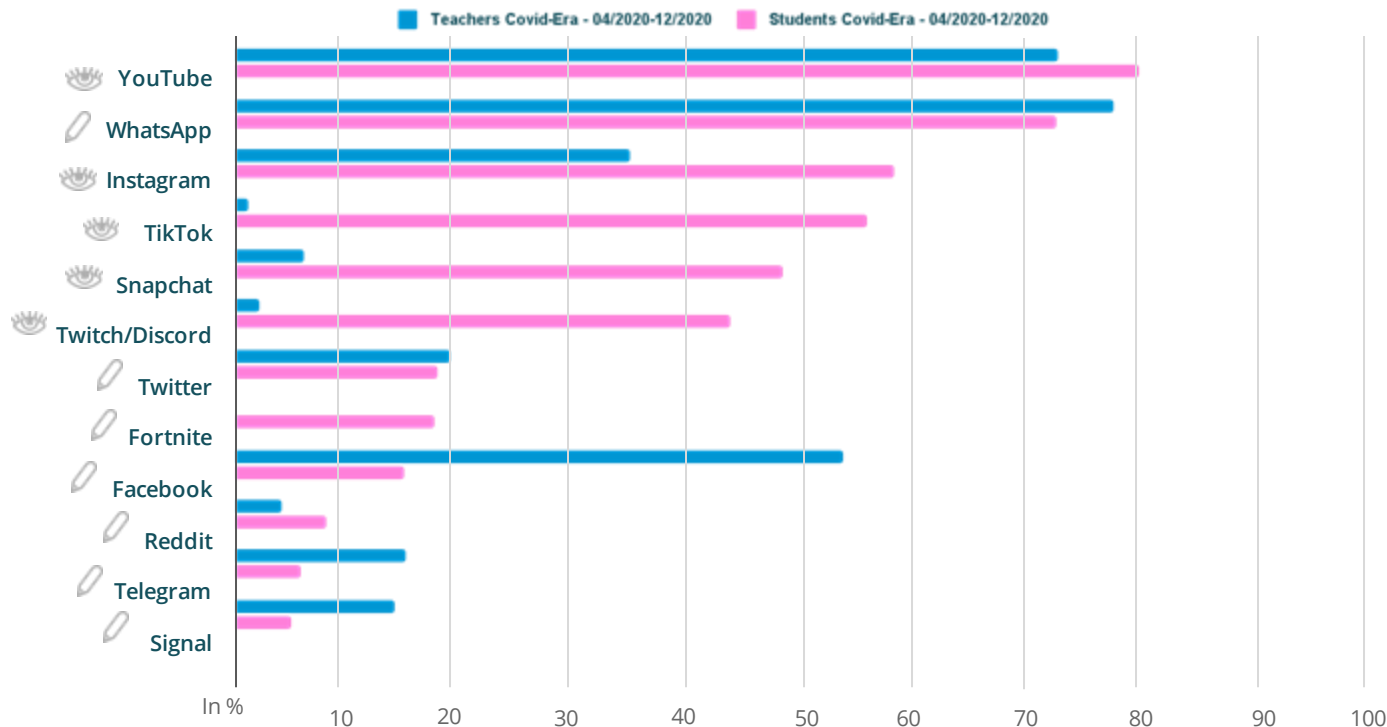
Online sources of information for schoolchildren



Covid-Era - 04/2020-12/2020

Questions: "What social media do you use to inform yourself?" - answers from 1.856 schoolchildren, 100 teachers - Covid-Era - 04/2020-12/2020

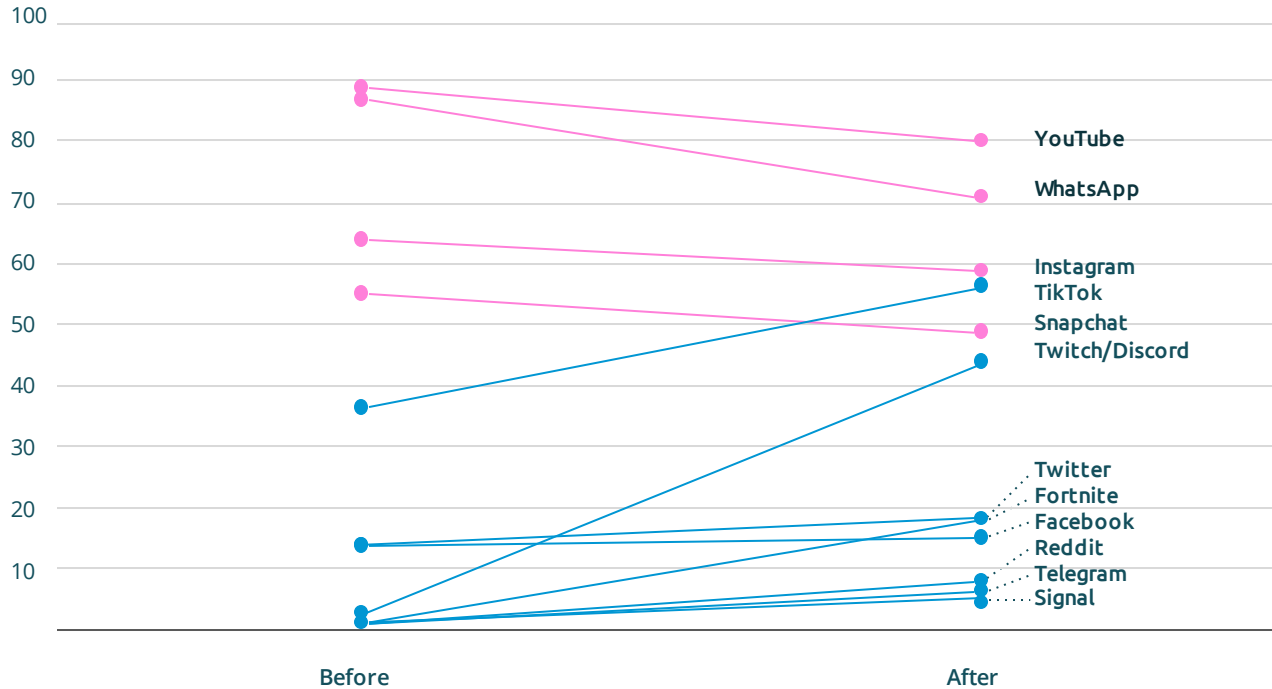
Online sources of information for schoolchildren and teachers



Covid-Era - 04/2020-12/2020

Questions: "What social media do you use to inform yourself?"- answers from 1.856 schoolchildren, 100 teachers- Covid-Era - 04/2020-12/2020

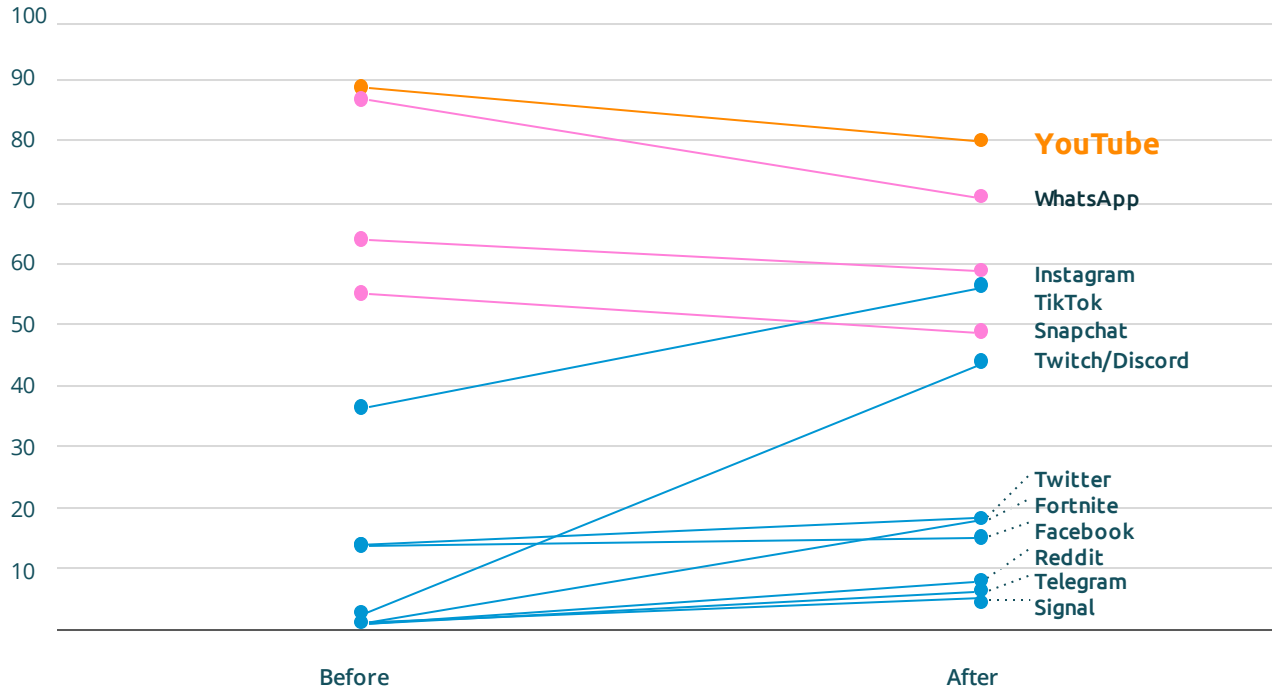
Schoolchildren social media use progression



Pre-Covid - 2017-03-2020
Covid-Era - 2020-12-2020

Questions: "What social media do you use?" - answers from 12,344 schoolchildren - Pre-Covid - 2017-03-2020
"What social media platforms do you use to inform yourself?" answers from 1,856 schoolchildren- Covid-Era - 2020-12-2020

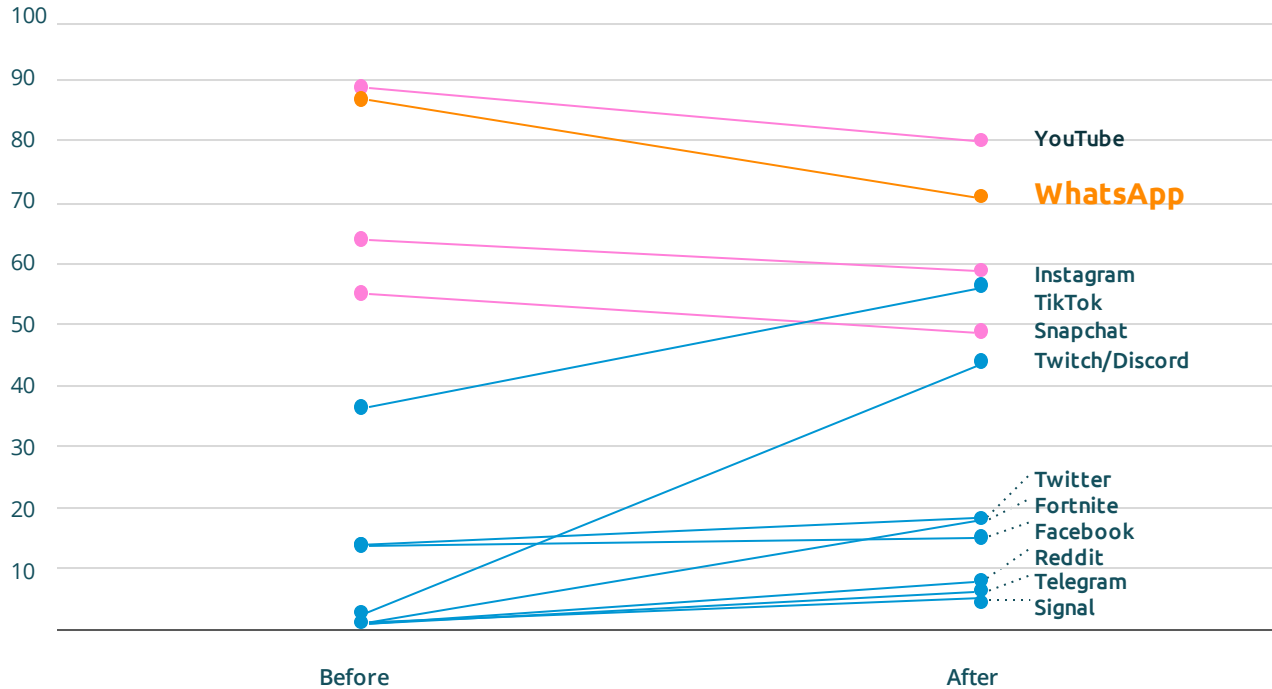
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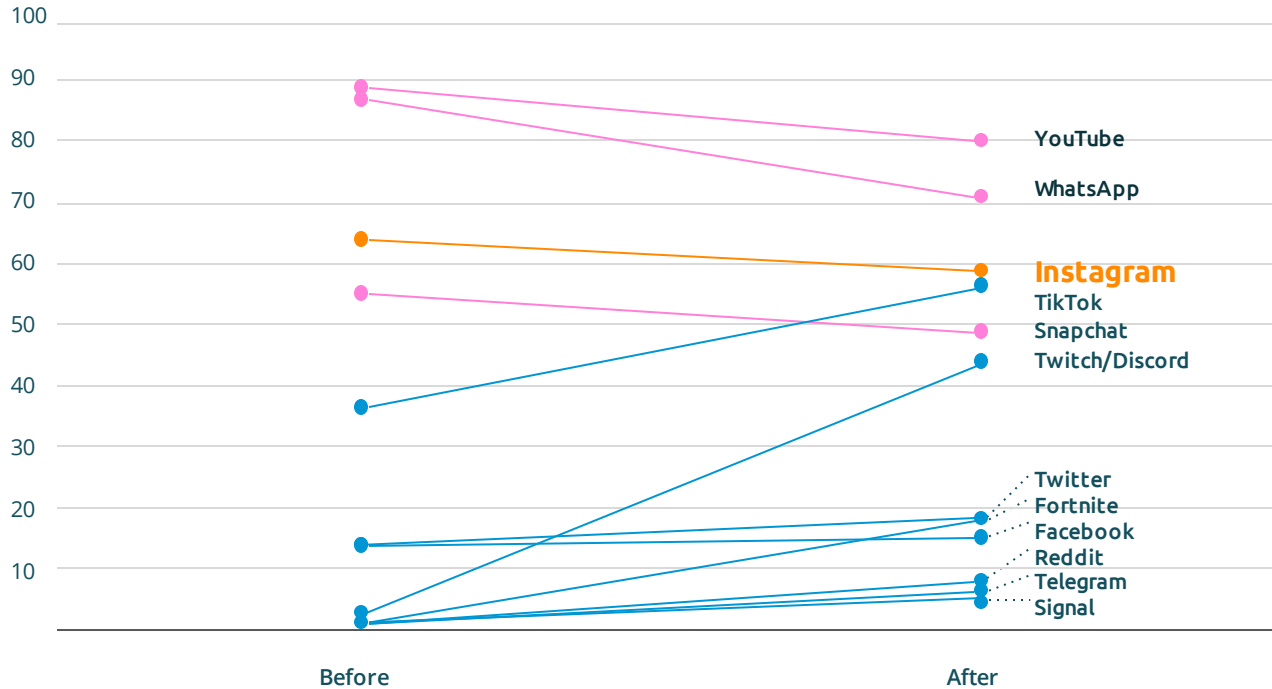
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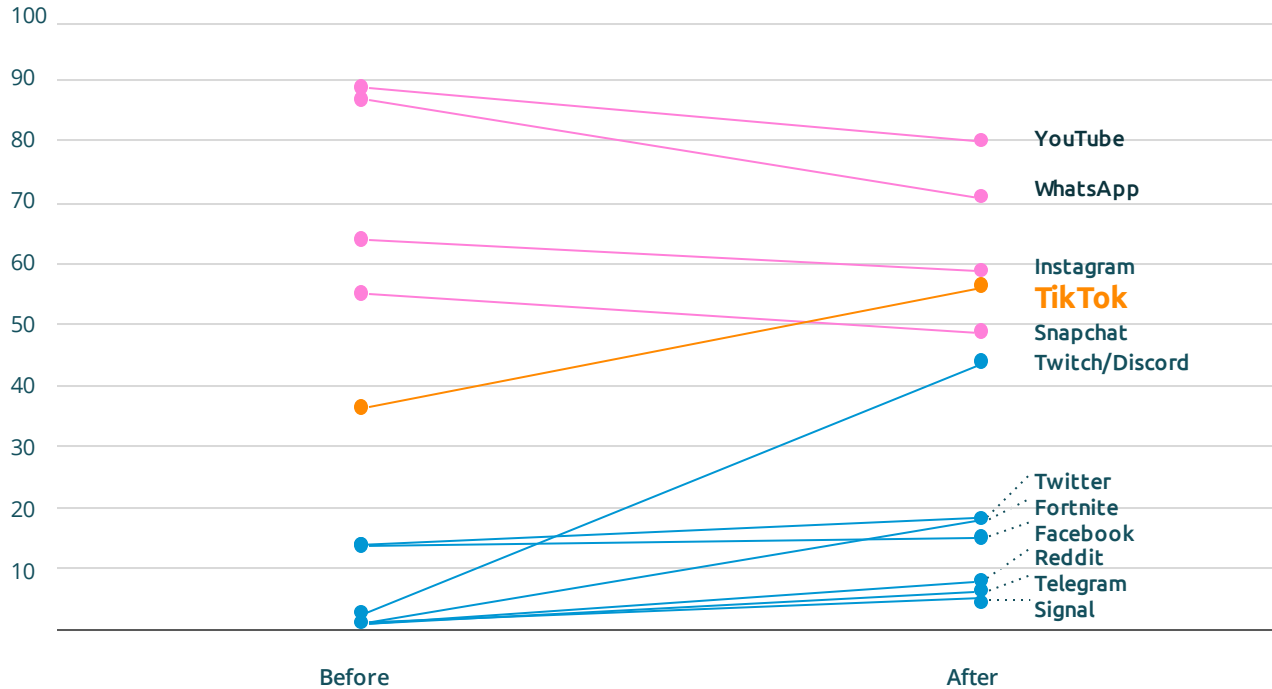
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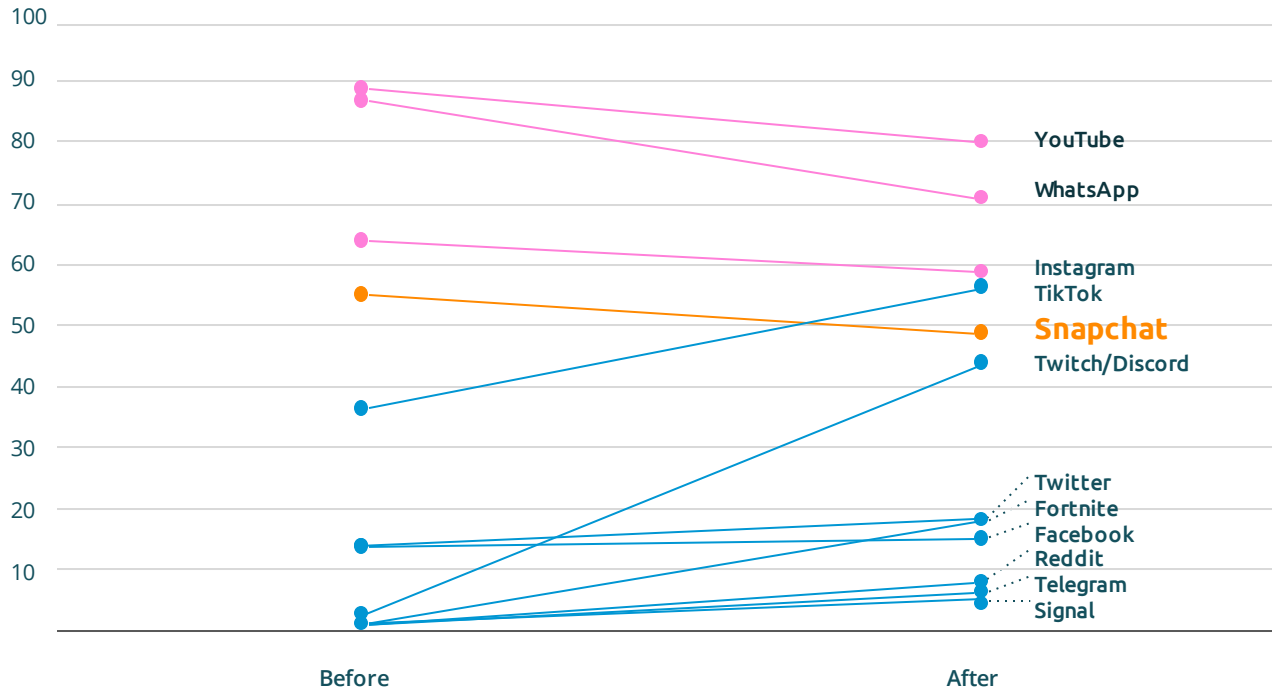
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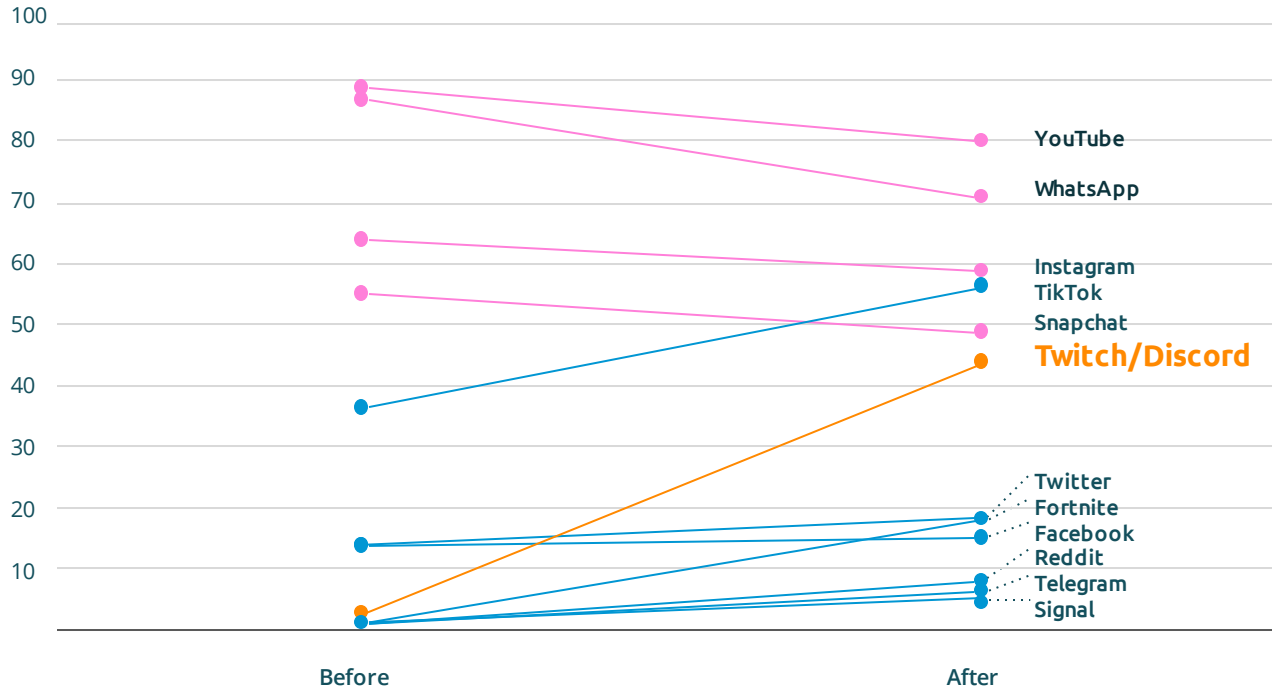
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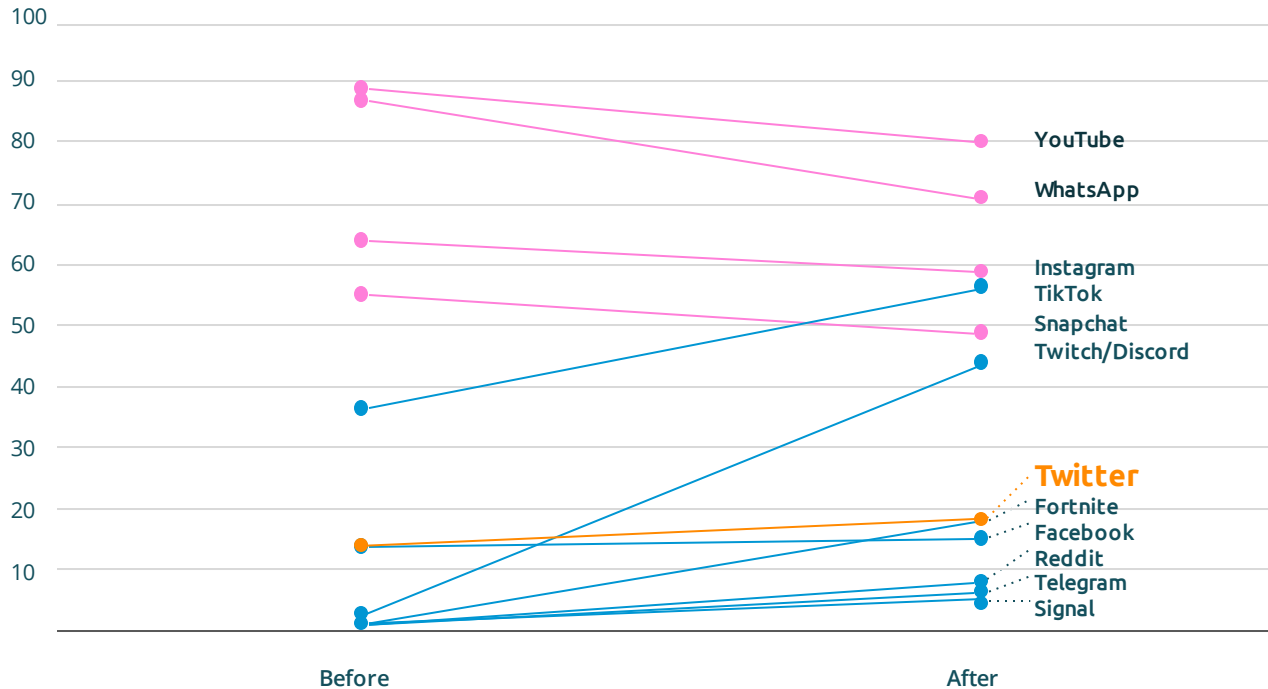
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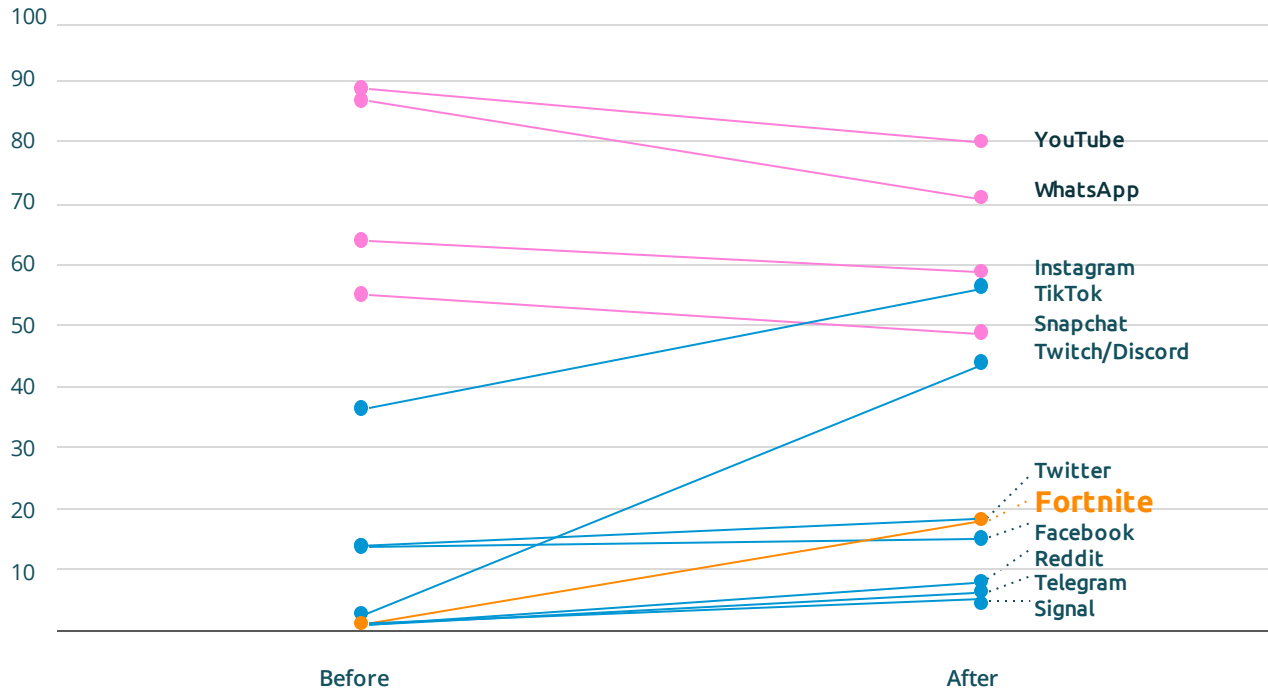
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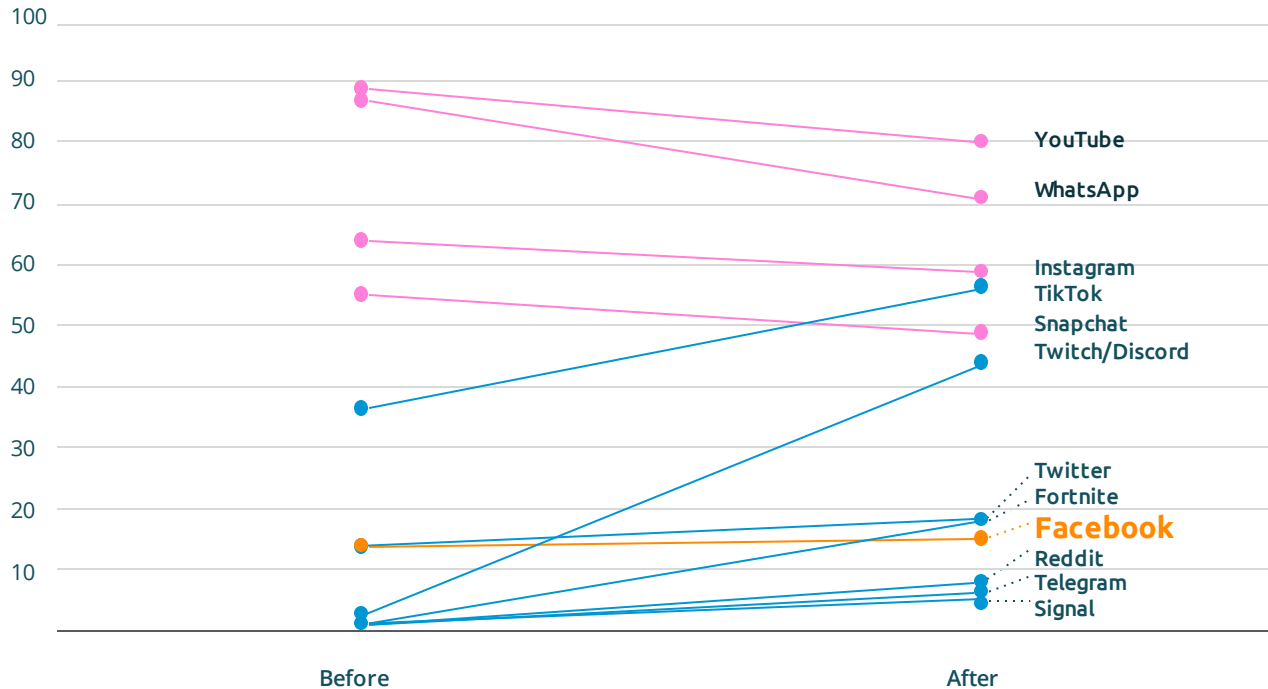
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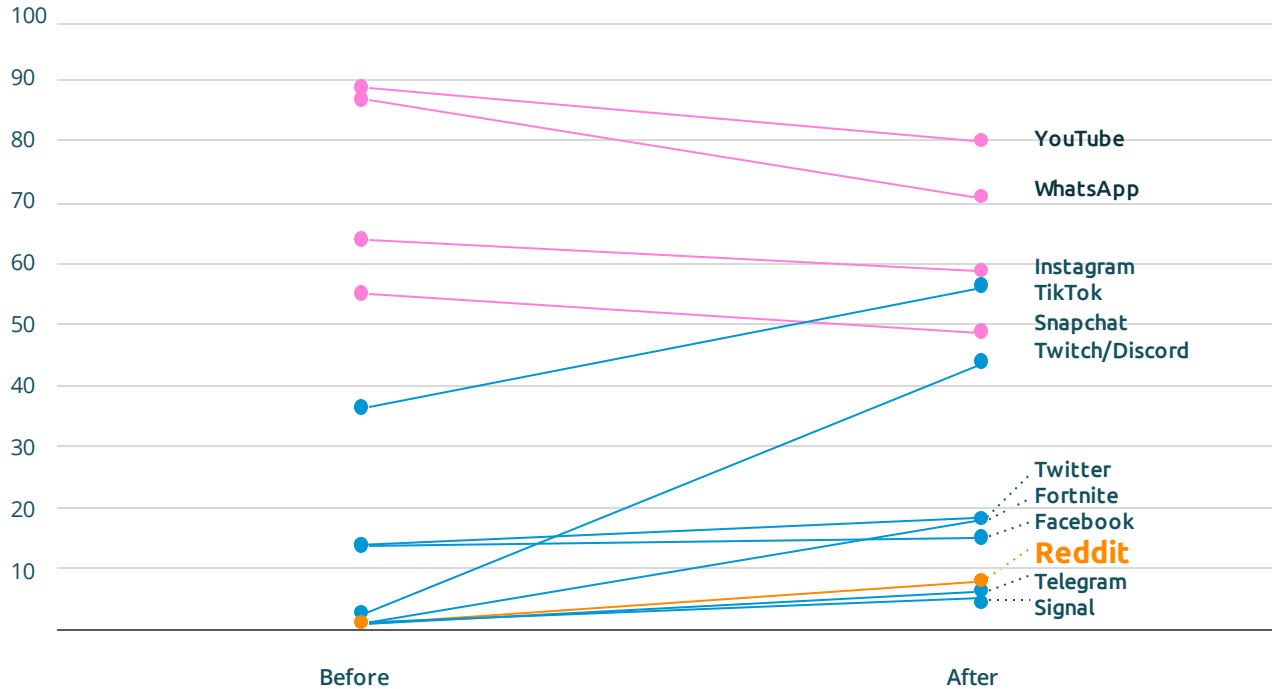
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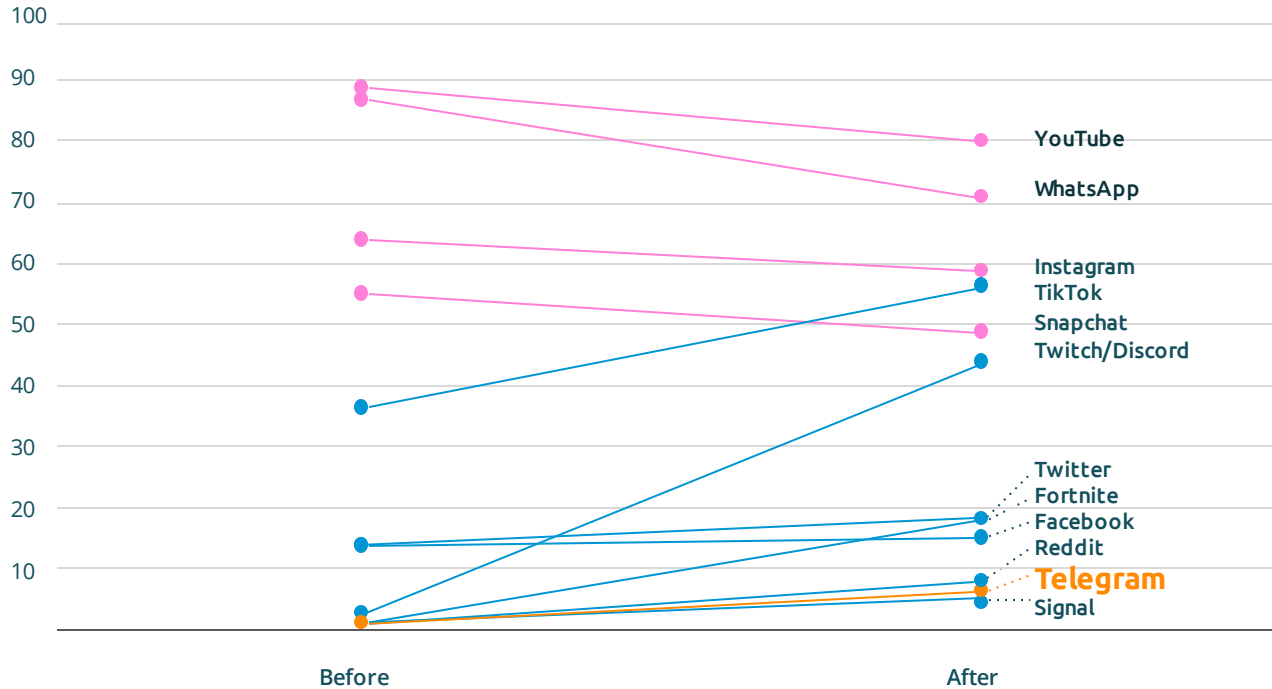
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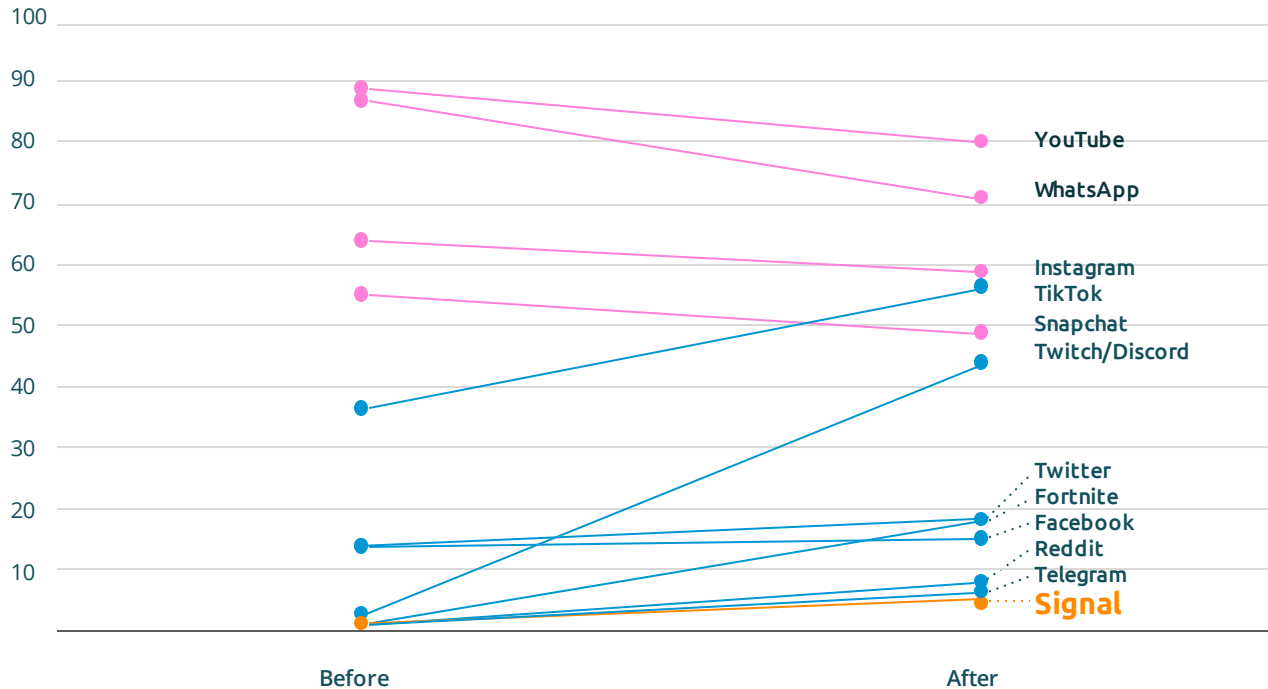
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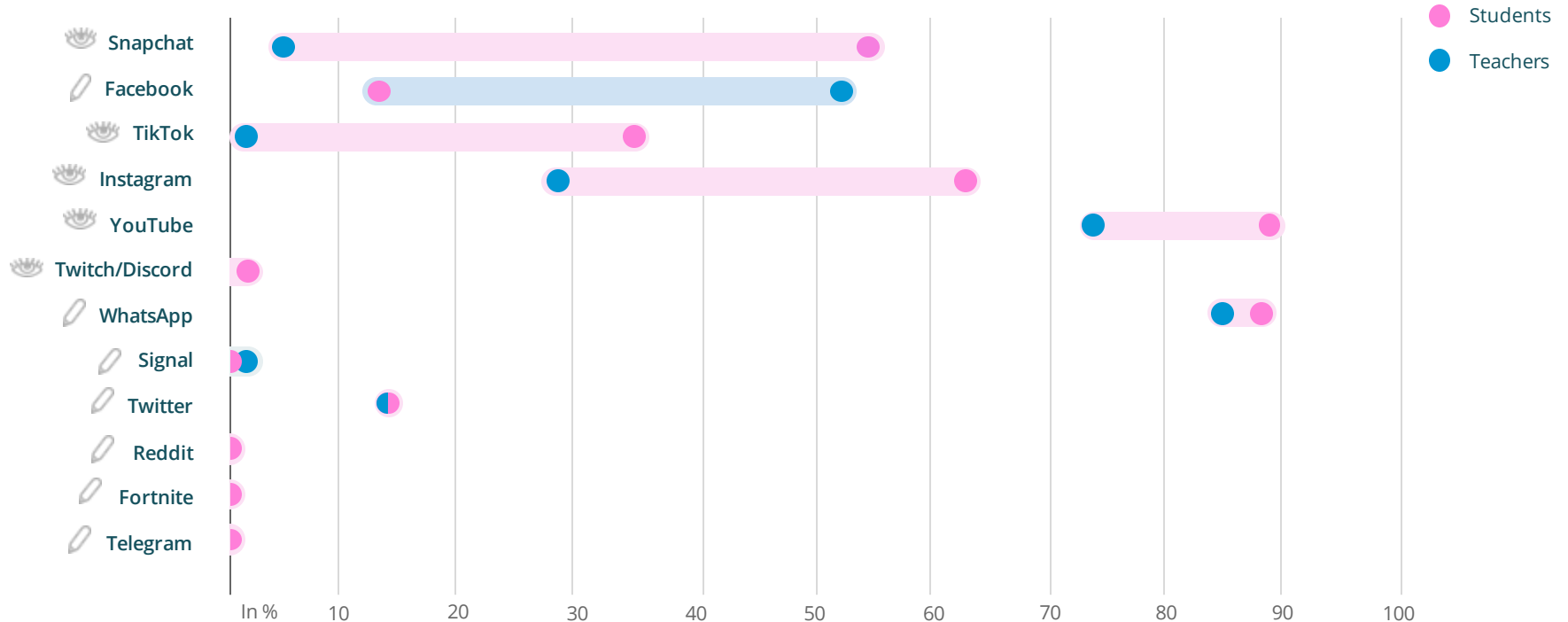
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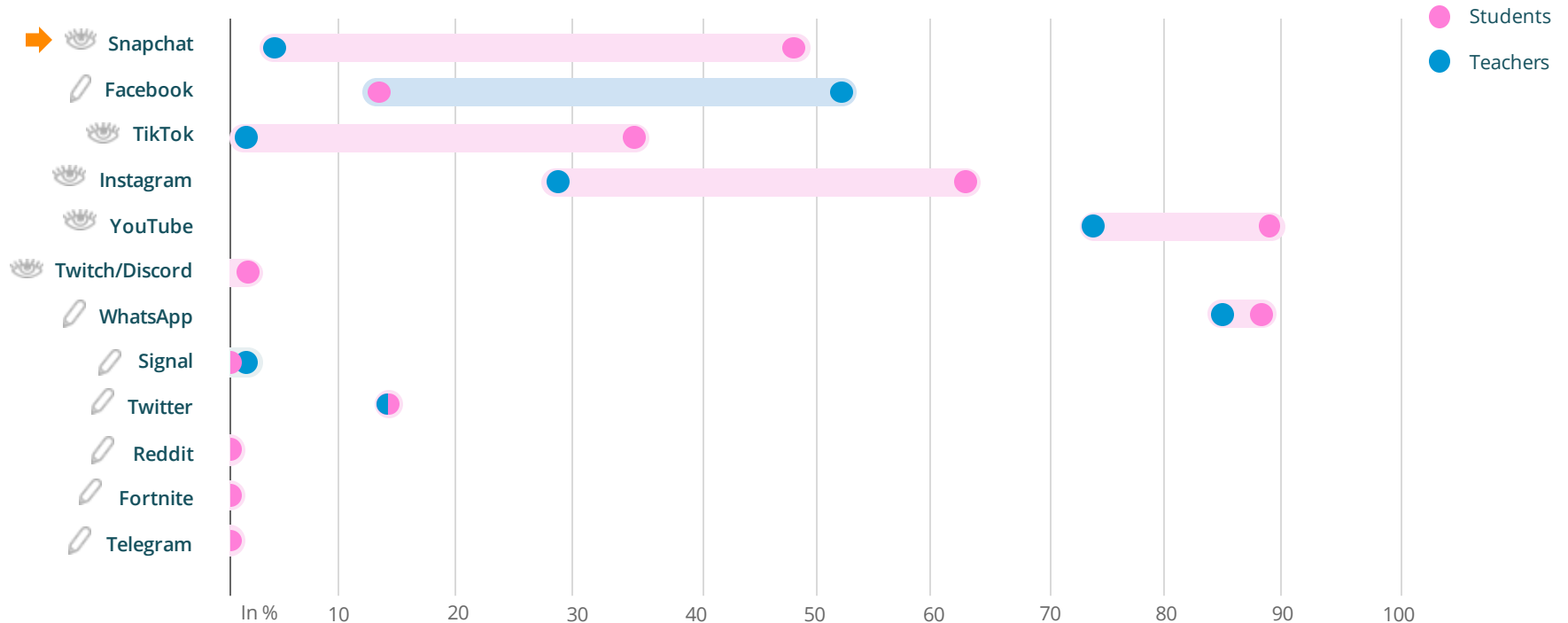
Developments in social media use: growing gaps



Pre-Covid - 2017-03/2020

Question: "What social media do you use?" - answers from 12.344 schoolchildren, 543 teachers - Pre-Covid - 2017-03/2020

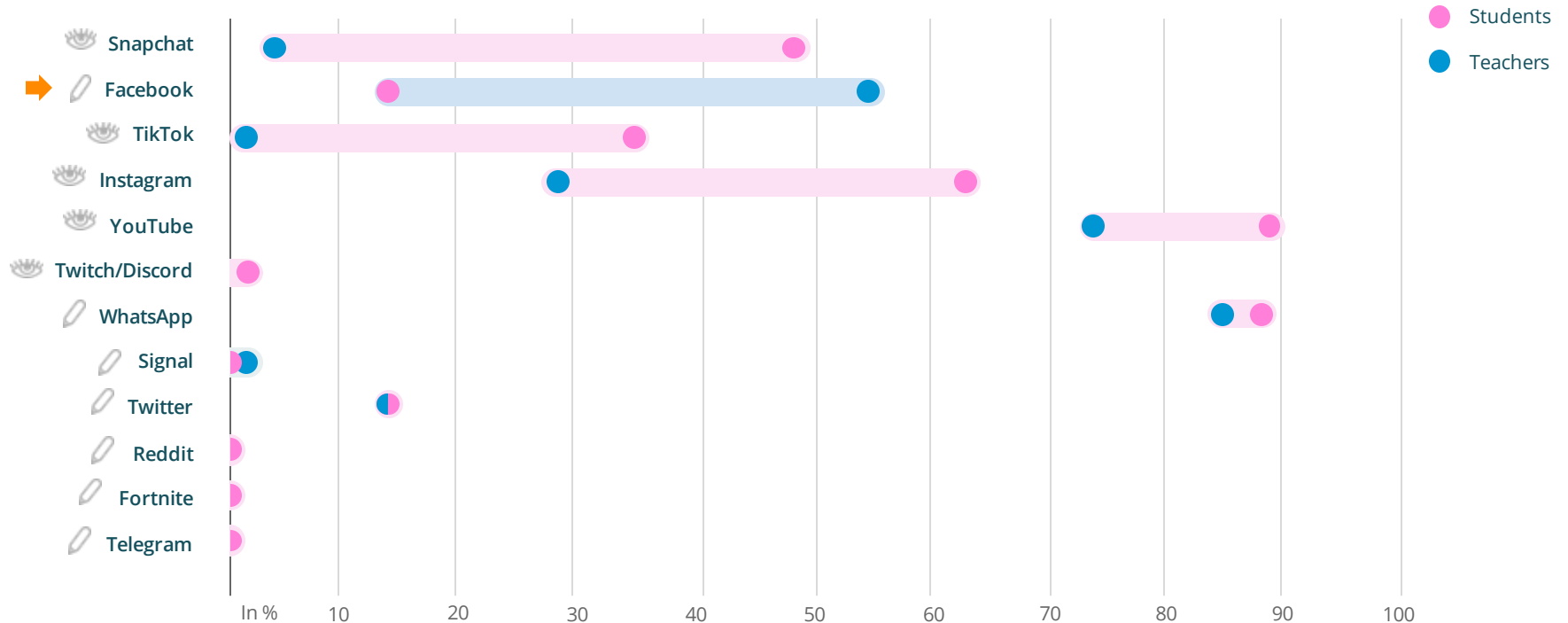
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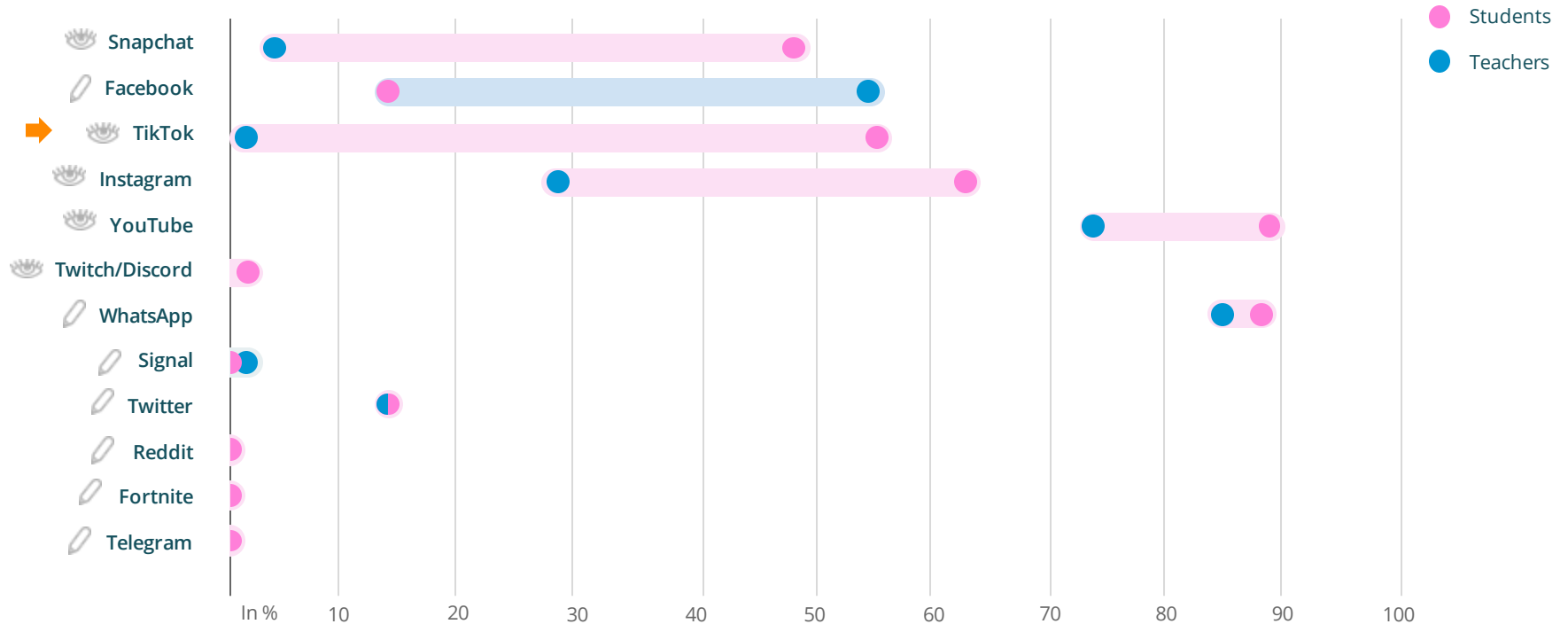
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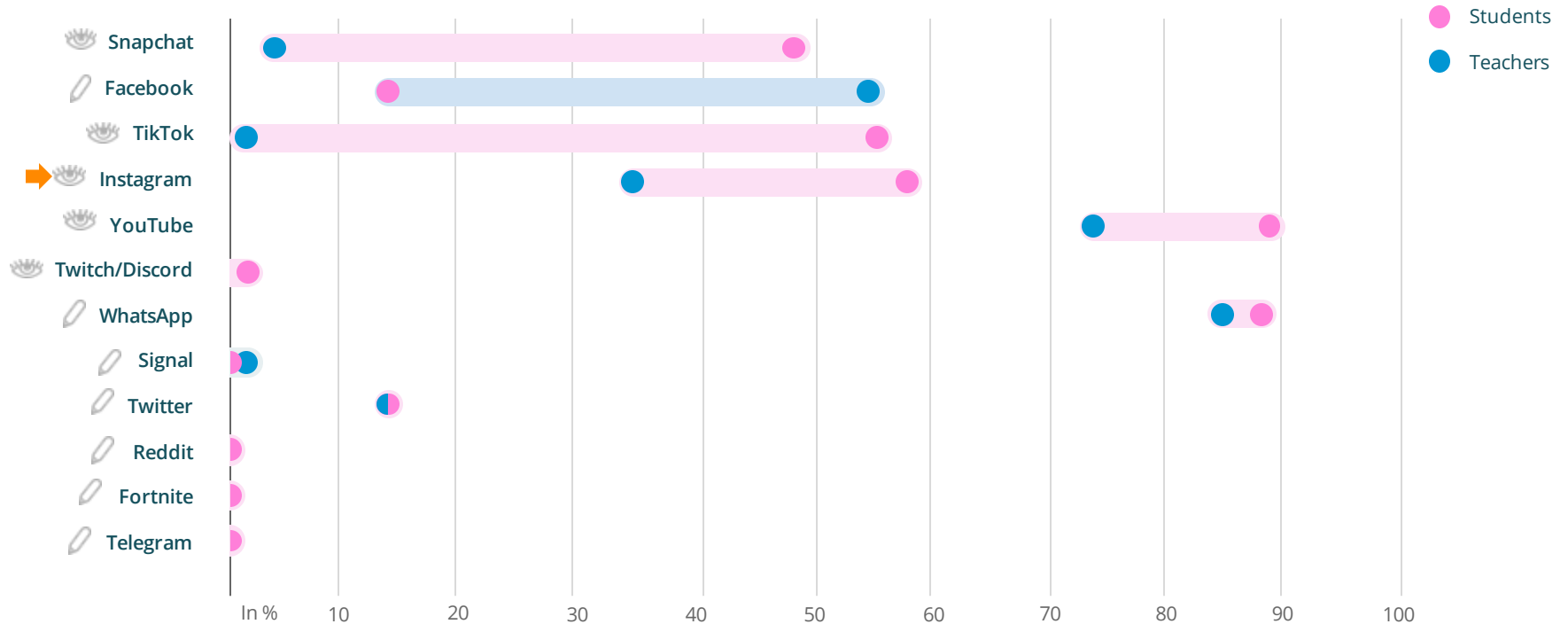
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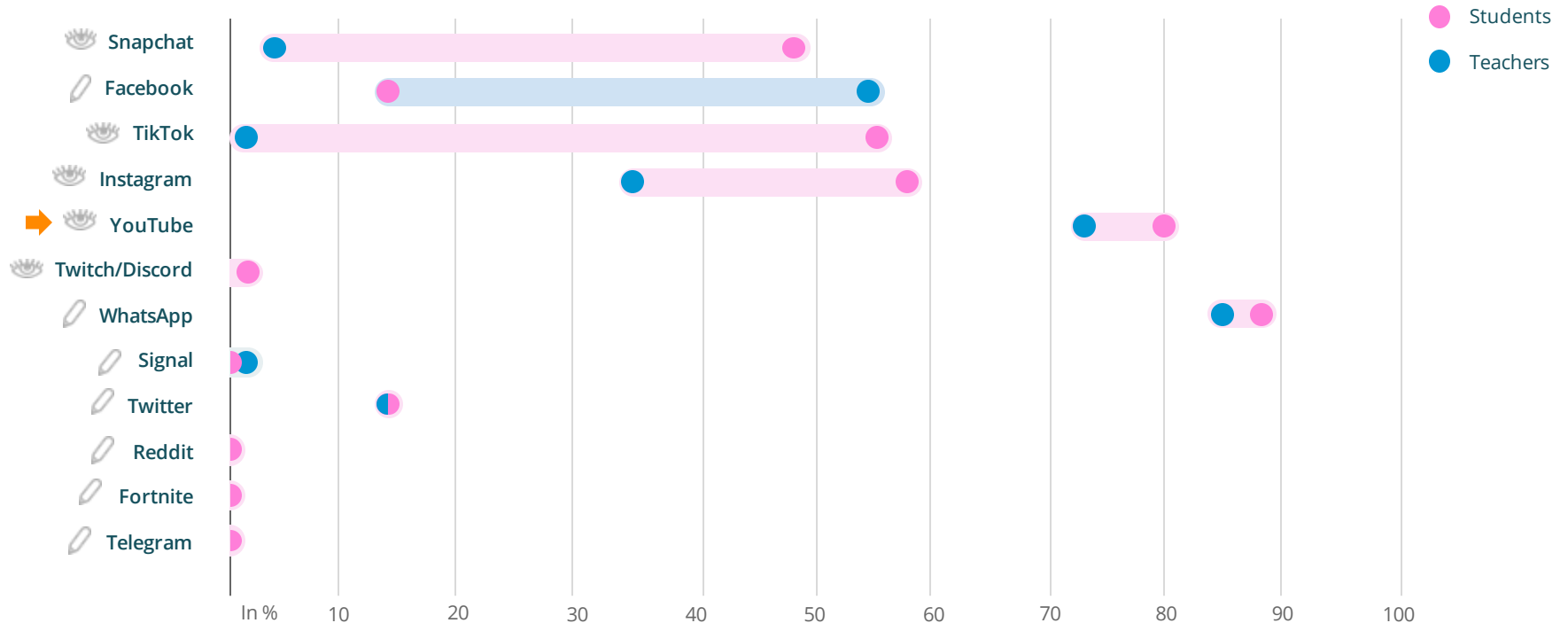
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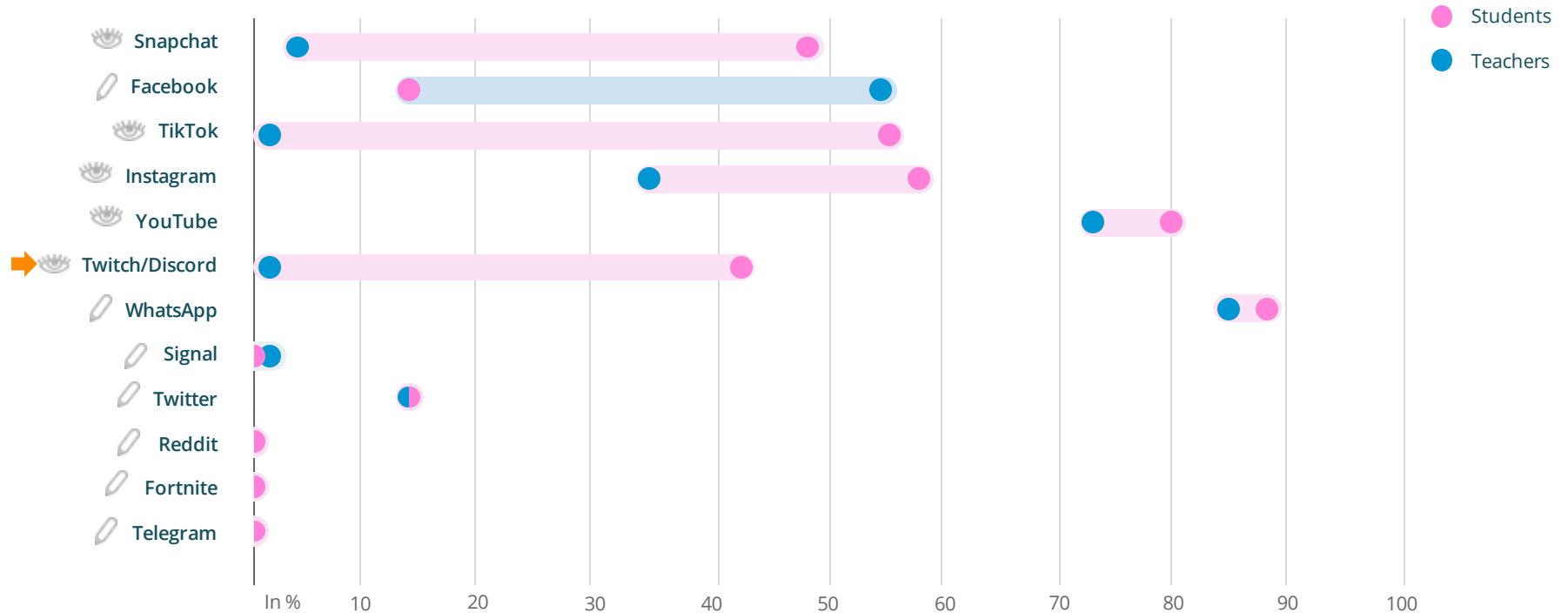
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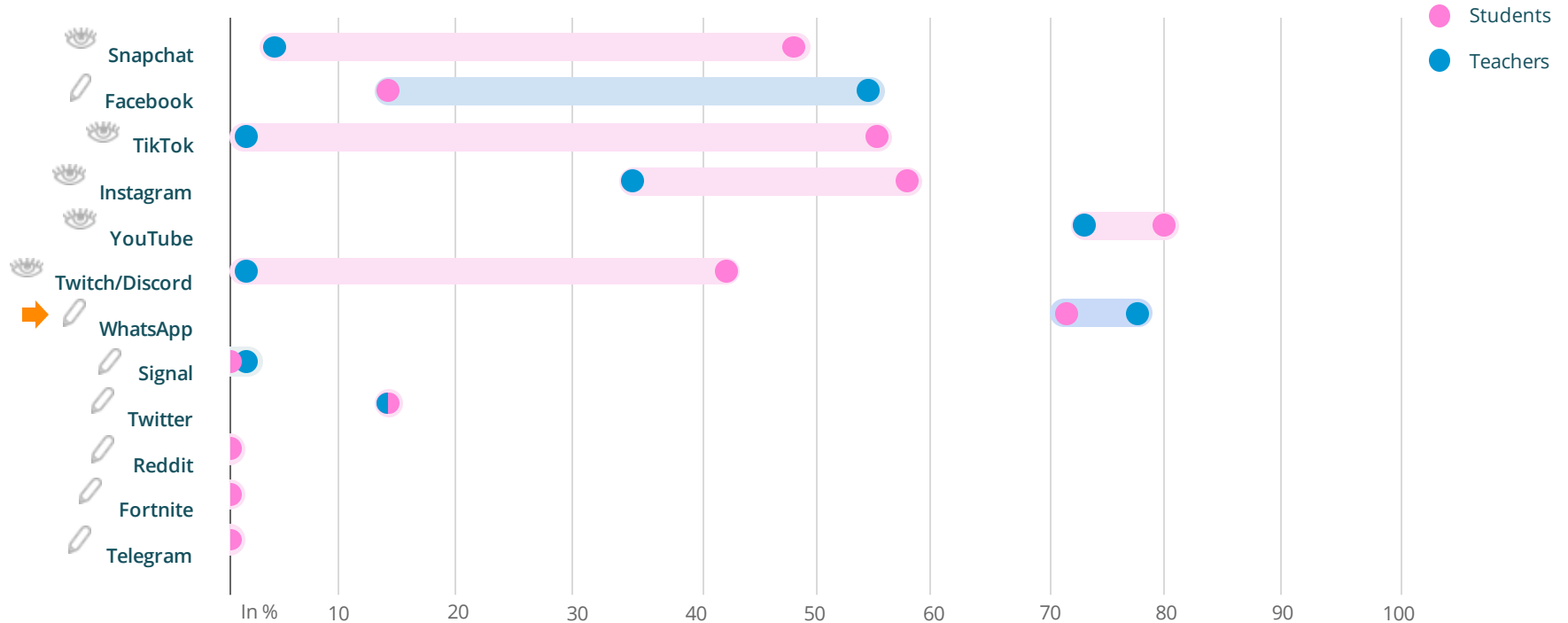
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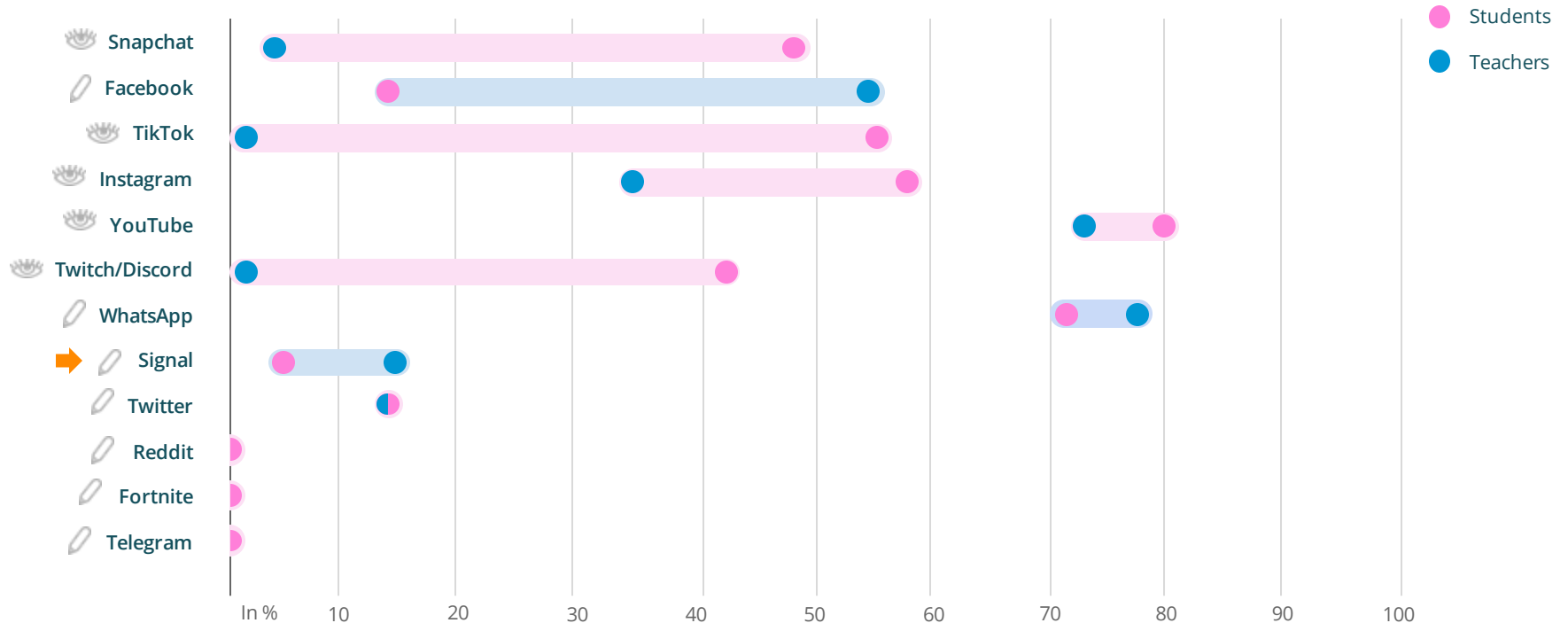
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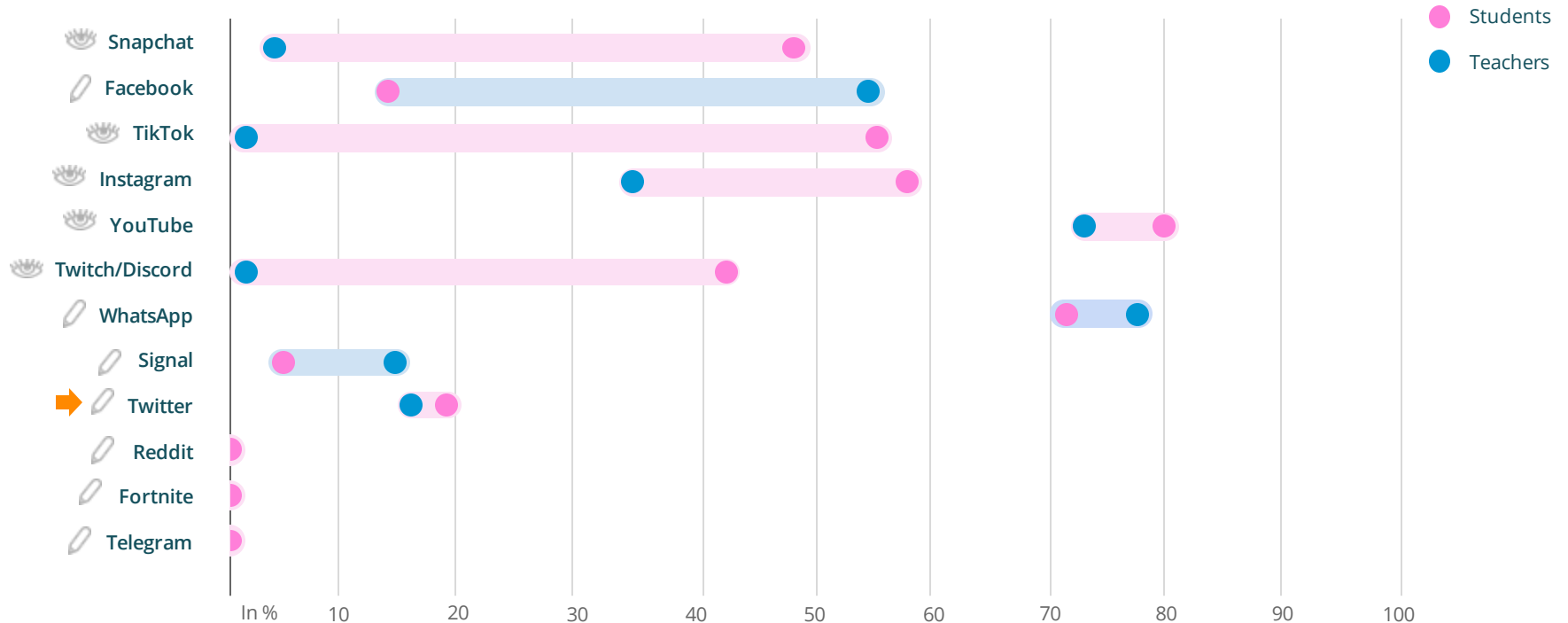
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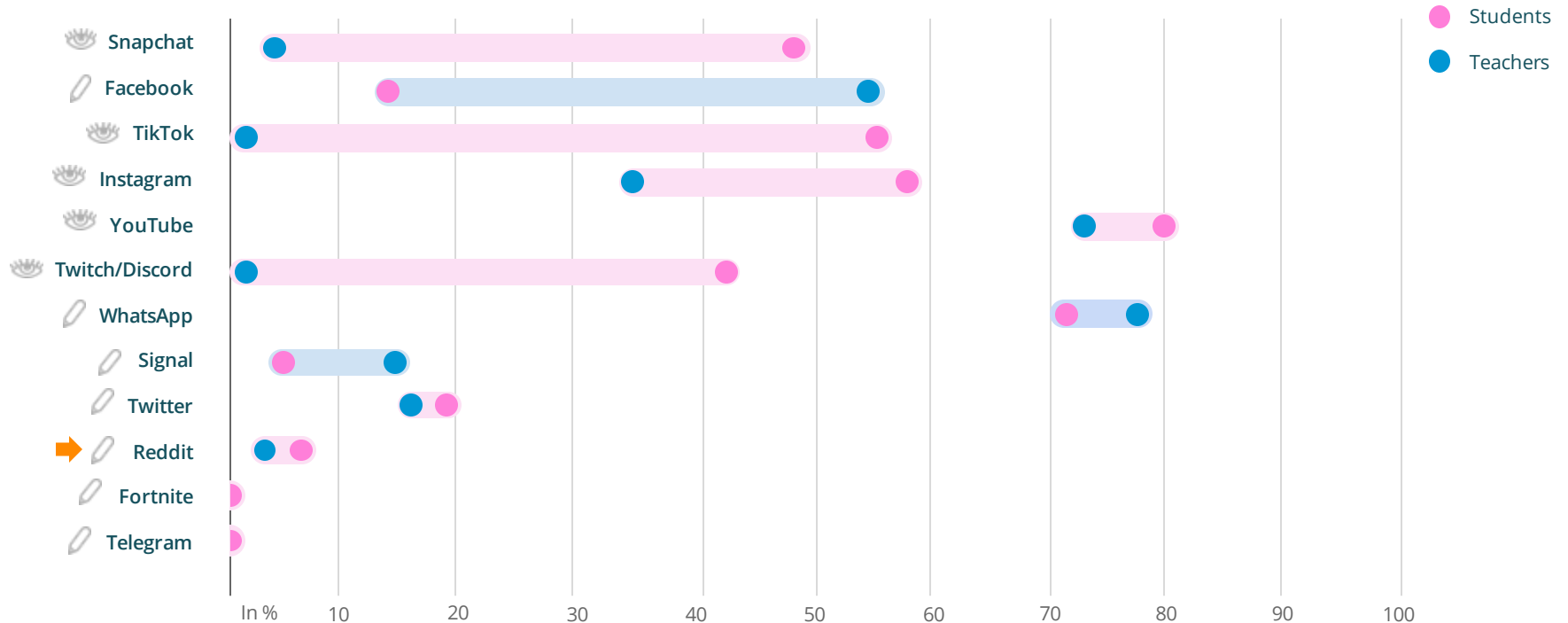
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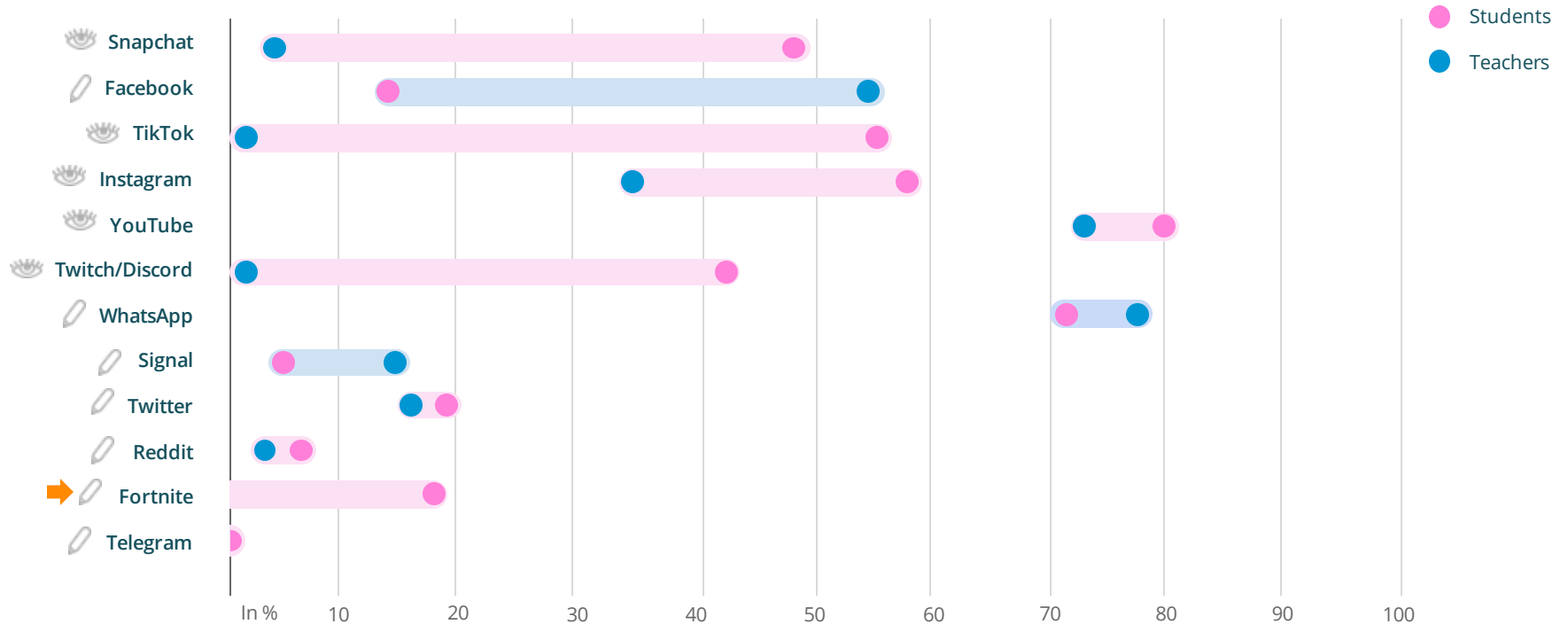
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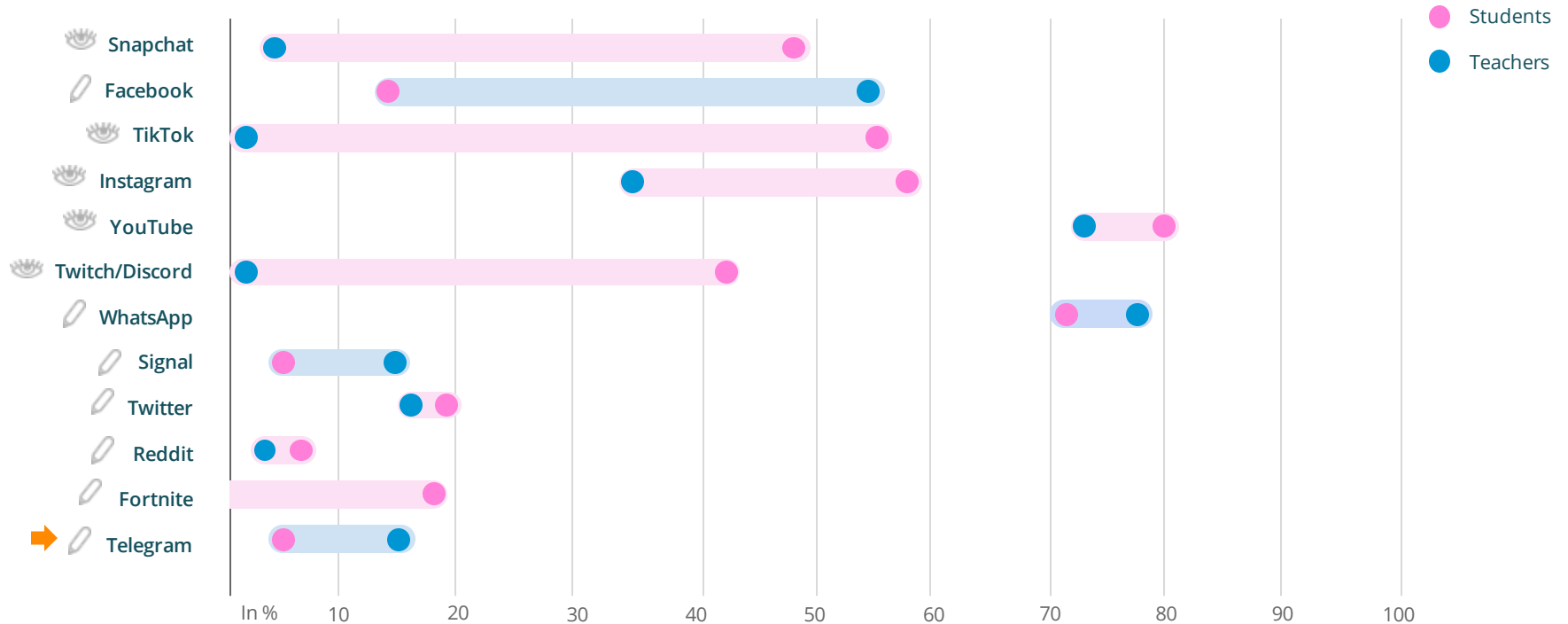
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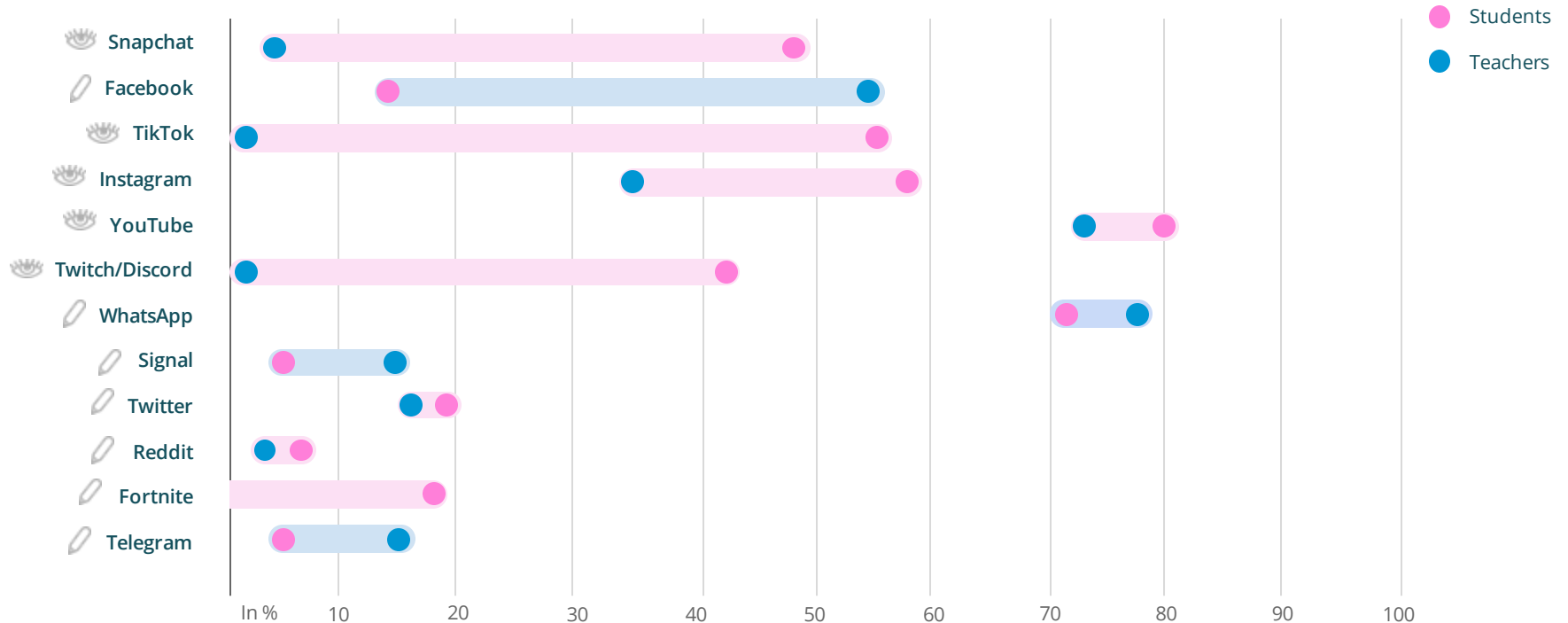
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Developments in social media use: growing gaps during COVID



Covid-Era - 04/2020-12/2020

Questions: "What social media do you use to inform yourself?" - answers from 1.856 schoolchildren, 100 teachers - Covid-Era - 04/2020-12/2020

Findings

Teacher interest

"I've learned how rapidly habits change and that my generation consumes information online in a very different way than the younger generation."

C. Foulds, teacher,
European Schools,
Belgium

"I hadn't realised how much social media my 10-year-old pupils use. We will be discussing this also with the parents."

B. Dobbelaere,
teacher, Brussels,
Belgium

"I'd like to know more about how journalism works. What is a journalist? What is a populist? Why does fake news exist?"

N. Zantke, teacher,
Hamburg, Germany

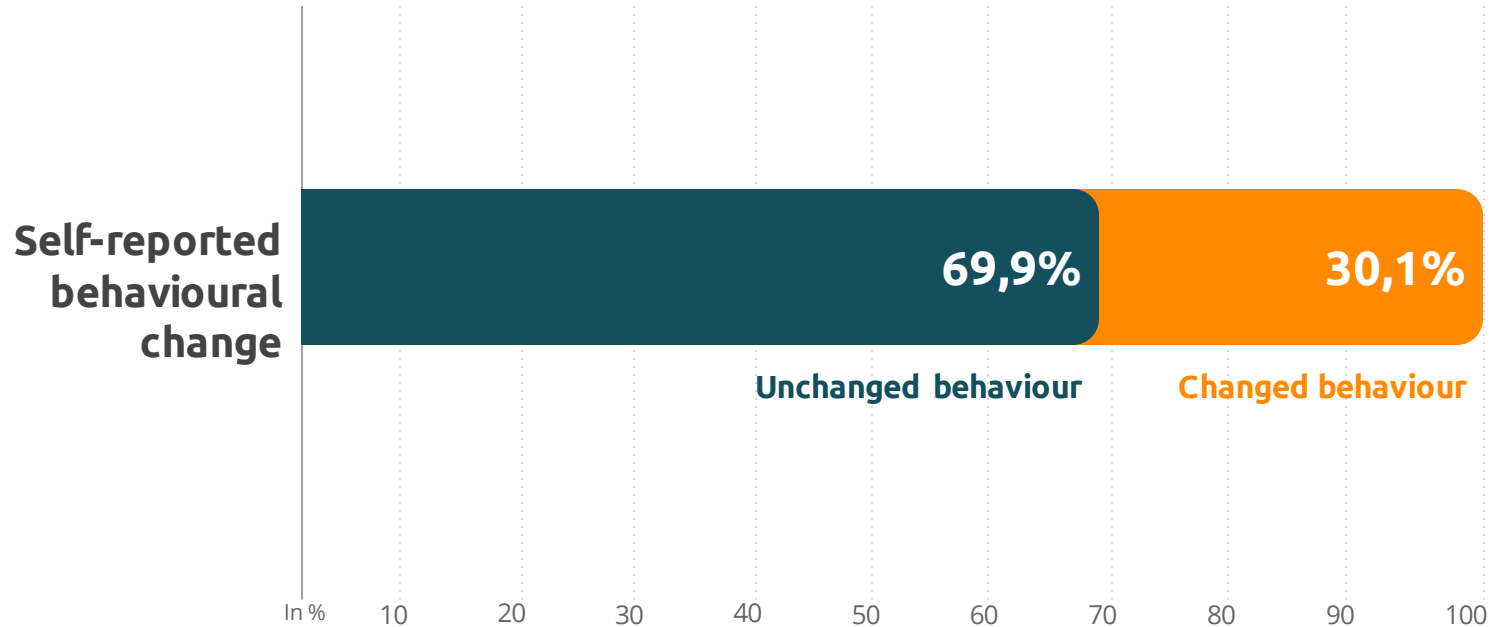
"I was surprised at the critical spirit of the children. I think we often take them to be more naive than they are."

P. Brauweiler,
teacher, Cologne,
Germany

3. Measuring media literacy



Measuring impact

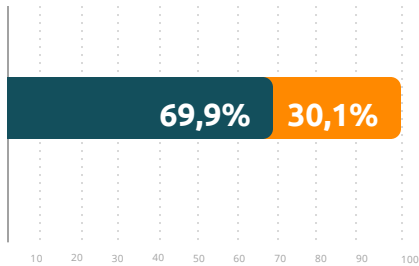


Covid-Era Subset 2 - 09 -12/2020

Question: "Have you started checking the sources of your online messages since taking our news challenge?" Y/N/Checked Before answers from 1378 students

Media Literacy has an impact

**Did Kids change
their behaviour?**

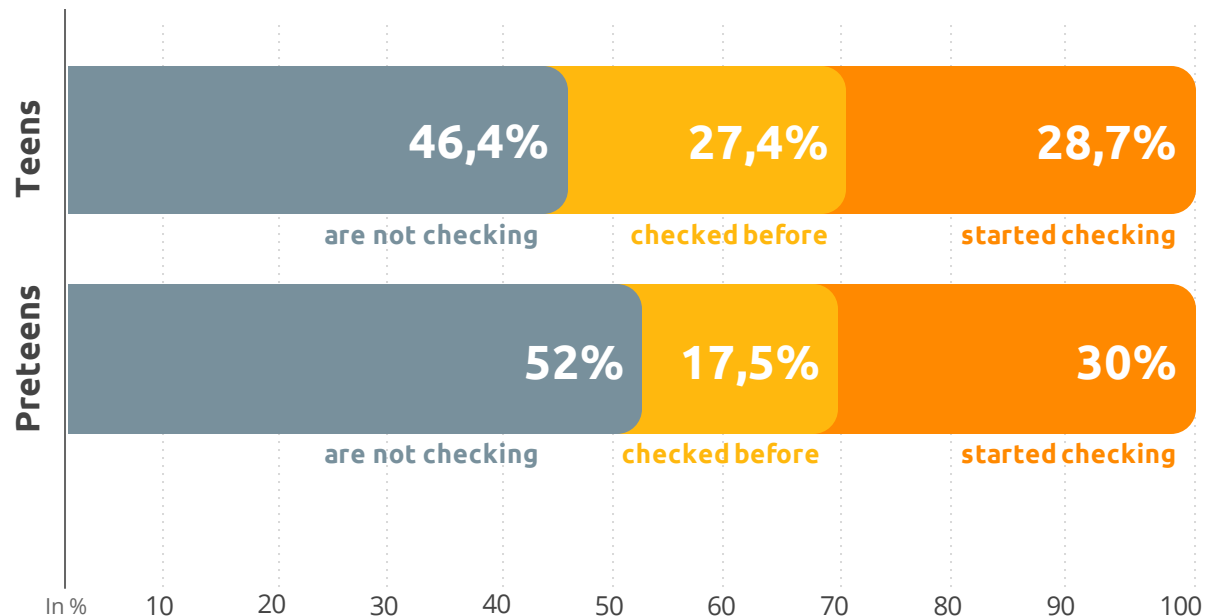
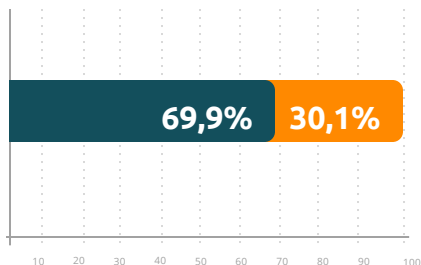


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Media Literacy has an impact

Did Kids change their behaviour?



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4. Recommendations



Steps to take

Recommendations

Focus on inquiry-based learning models.

Back measures that go beyond fact-checking and that consider safety on unmoderated platforms.

Back OECD in adding critical literacy to school rankings worldwide.

Invest in training teachers and incentivise teachers.

Integrate media literacy into school and teacher-training curricula.

Devise funding to ensure the independence of media literacy teaching and journalism.

Thank you.

For more information, contact
info@lie-detectors.org

Lie Detectors Data Briefing 2021

www.lie-detectors.org



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CRITICAL THINKING