



TikTok

If yourself or your child uses social media you may be aware of TikTok. TikTok is a platform for sharing short videos with friends, family or the entire world! TikTok has been around for sometime and we are aware that many of our pupils enjoy creating videos to share, watching videos of friends and of people they like to follow.

TikTok is becoming very easy for our pupils to have access to videos that are not appropriate. These videos might include adult content, violence, encouragement to lie to their parents, bad language and content about alcohol and drugs. Also there is evidence that predators are seeking to connect with children through TikTok.

We are aware that a lot of our younger pupils access TikTok but it is important to note that due to the dangers of being exposed to the above that TikTok does have an age restriction of 13 years old.

It is important to check that your child's account is set to private, so this means video's created by your child will only be seen by them and others who they (or you) have approved to watch their videos. When an account is created the account is made public by default, this means anyone can see what your child shares. To set an account to private go to 'Privacy and Settings'.

Through 'Privacy and Settings' you can also turn on the digital wellbeing element to monitor how long a child is on the app for, on this you can also turn on restricted mode to help filter some of the inappropriate content on the app.

There is a new 'Family Safety Mode' designed to give parents tighter control over their child's mobile phone habits. It will let parents link their own **TikTok** accounts to their child's and turn features on and off remotely. That includes the "restricted **mode**" that tries to filter out inappropriate content, and turning off messaging.

If you are aware of inappropriate content on TikTok it is important to report, to do this click on share on the video and click on report.

Be aware of explicit songs on TikTok, many songs featured on the app have explicit language and sexual content that is not suitable for your child. It is best to review the app together and what your child is accessing regularly.

Users can like and react to a video, follow an account or send messages to each other. There is a risk that strangers will be able to directly contact your child through the app.

Your child may be tempted to take risks to get more of a following or likes on a video.

Please have regular conversations with your child about 'Share Aware'. Help your child to think more carefully about what they post and how it may be seen by so that they protect themselves.

Thank you.