

001 RH7 Digital Safety Update

TikTok



TikTok (formerly called Musical.ly) is a social media platform that lets you create, share and discover 60 second videos. You can use music and effects to enhance your videos and you can also browse other people's videos and interact with them.

TikTok can be a fun app to use but there are considerations around digital safety.

- The content available for young people to watch can include inappropriate and graphic content both visually and verbally.
- If young people do not set their privacy settings to private it means that their content is public and can be viewed and commented on by strangers. Even with a private account, profile information including: profile photo, username, and bio – will be visible to all users.
- Any apps that allow for comments/messaging can increase the risk of cyberbullying and trolling.
- Young people may not consider the amount of personal information they are sharing through the video, eg name/location – information that can be gleaned from having a 'look' around the room the video is streaming from.
- Use of devices and fun apps can become addictive and affect mental health and sleep patterns.

App Age Rating

TikTok requires that users be at least 13 years old to use the app however, www.common sense media.org recommends the app for age 15+ mainly due to the privacy issues and mature content. Anyone under the age of 18 must have approval of a parent or guardian. There is a section of the app that's meant for children under 13, that restricts access to mature content and comments, but since entering a false birthdate is easy, it's still best for older teens.

The NSPCC Netaware website helpfully summarizes what the app offers and what you should be aware of as a parent: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/tiktok/>

Follow this to link to Common Sense Media's guide to TikTok:

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok>

Best practice

The best way to keep children safe is to be as informed about the app as you can, particularly about its safety and digital wellbeing features. Find out what the children use it for and talk to them about what they enjoy about it.

- Abide by the 13+ official age rating
- If your child does want to use the app then download the app to your (adult) device and learn about TikTok first.
- Decide on the music/dance routines/hashtag challenges together so that you (the adult) can monitor the content.

- If your child already uses TikTok, ask them to show you how TikTok works and talk you through the privacy/safety settings.
- Counsel your child not to reveal personal information such as age, address, or phone number in their profile information section.
- Link your parent Tiktok account to your child's using TikTok's Family Safety Mode (see information below).
- Do not let children use their devices alone in their bedroom.
- At night-time remove electronic devices from bedrooms. Consider a family 'no devices in the bedroom' rule.

Family Safety Mode

Family Safety Mode lets parents link their TikTok account to their child's so they can control:

1. **Screen Time Management:** how long their child can spend on TikTok each day.
2. **Direct Messages:** who can send message to their child's account or turn off direct messages completely.
3. **Restricted Mode:** restrict certain types of content that think isn't appropriate for their child.

At the time of writing, this video gave a good overview of how to set up TikTok Family Safety Mode: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7umOVX_ZvQ

TikTok Parents page: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/privacy-safety/for-parents-default>

Reporting inappropriate and abusive Content



Within the app: TikTok has an inbuilt reporting feature to report abuse, spam, or anything else that doesn't follow the Community Guidelines within the app:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/privacy-safety/report-inappropriate-content-default>



Child abuse images - Child sexual abuse content and non-photographic child sexual abuse images should be reported to the Internet Watch Foundation:

<https://report.iwf.org.uk/en>



If there are any concerns about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating online (grooming) please report to CEOP (the link can also be found at the bottom of the school website): <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Further Links

BBC Article about TikTok (Feb 2020): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-51561050>

YouTube TikTok Safety Tips video (Jan 2020): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEkkku-lkeg>