

GEMS Online Safety Newsletter Spring

Made by the Digital Leaders

Send It!

You must be age 12+ to be on this app as it may have some inappropriate things on it.

Send it is an add on to snapchat- so is not a standalone app.



People are encouraged to do things they wouldn't normally do although they are less accountable and harder to track.



Apply restricted mode
Restricted mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform (you must be 18y to watch YouTube, but children younger than 18 or 13 can watch YouTube kids)



YOUTUBE KIDS

You don't have to be a certain age to watch you tube kids ,but you must be 13 years old to watch **you tube**.

You tube is full of inappropriate videos, while You tube kids have no inappropriate videos and you can pick an age group to ensure videos that are available are ok to watch.

All the things on You tube you can still watch on you tube kids



You tube kids

- You can still watch football, gaming, dancing, beauty, and other things you watch on you tube
- You tube kids is safer than you tube ,there is no chance of you watching anything **inappropriate**

Fortnite

Fortnite should be played at the age of 13+ .Here are tips on how to keep your child safe. Playing with strangers on Fortnite who are randomly in a game, it will be hard to predict what they will do or say. So it is always better to play with your friends. Also I wouldn't recommend your child by v-bux. Please continue to read on.



All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION 13+
(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "following" feed only displays videos from users you follow, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsettling. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been injured or even killed by videos challenging them to perform harmful or dangerous acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which challenged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially on accounts created by over-16s (or youngsters using a false date of birth). One set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to every one else on the app, it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy virtual gifts, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99. TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthday.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive. Figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it: in the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 122 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This competitive nature can also interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the "TikTok Now" feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's easy for a young person to adjust what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not setting mobile.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry, previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer. Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

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#WakeUpWednesday

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 23.11.2022

How old should you be?

Tik Tok should be used by people 13+

We know that children are using this platform so here's how to keep your child safe.

Blocking and Reporting.
Make sure that your child knows how to use that safety feature.

Tech tips live with parent zone
You can watch back 13-minute broadcast from parent zone(originally broadcast Jan 2023)this discusses what you need to know.

Any types of videos, comments ect will be deleted if its inappropriate