

Safeguarding Newsletter



Safeguarding Team



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Welcome to our First Safeguarding Newsletter

Dear Families,

Welcome to the first edition of our safeguarding newsletter. This half termly newsletter is designed to support families in deepening their understanding of safeguarding issues that may affect their child, themselves or members of their local community.

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

You will see on the right of this page information about who to speak to if you have concerns about a child's safety or welfare, however all our staff are trained in safeguarding if you want to discuss any concerns with them.

Any questions, please do ask.

Mrs Molloy, Mrs Worsfold and Mrs Ryan



Meet our Safety Squad

We have identified and selected a group of young people from Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 who will be instrumental in leading on safety within the school, from a child's point of view. This can range from assessing safe areas in school, ensuring

other children feel safe in school and knowing who to talk to about their worries. They take their role seriously and follow the rules of our school and are good role models. Also, they help the children in our school make good choices about keeping themselves

safe. For all children within the school to feel safe and be able to approach someone if they have a concern.





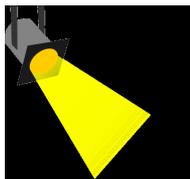
“The internet is an amazing resource when used safely”

ROBLOX have made the headlines again this week after a shock US report branding it an 'X-rated pedophile hells cape'. and Colin Stitt, Head of safer Schools at INEQE Safeguarding Group, spoke to the Mail online about actions that parents. Carers and safeguarding professionals can take to make the gamers in their care safer online.

“The report is a stark reminder that we can’t assume a platform is safe just because it looks child friendly.

Parents and carers need to be proactive and educate themselves about the potential risks their children may face online including exposure to inappropriate content, online predators and harmful social interactions”

For more advice click the following link: <https://ineqe.com/2024/10/11/navigating-the-risks-of-roblox/>



Spotlight on.....Online Abuse

With our children growing up with technology and internet that moves in an extraordinary fast pace. It can be difficult to know what they doing online, who they may be speaking to or what dangerous situations they may get themselves into. The most effective way to keep your child safe is to speak with your child, have an open a transparent conversation with them. Some of these conversations maybe difficult but it is important to have them. There s a possibility your child may have seen, inappropriate or explicit content, online pornography, being bullied, groomed or being subjected to dangers such as sextortion. For further advice and support you could contact someone for the Safeguarding Team or click on the following link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>



Useful Numbers:

Childline: 0800 1111

Houghton Regis Children Centre: 0300 300 8115/0300 300 8129

Parentline: 07507331456

Foodbank Advisor: 07367457834

Free National Helpline: 0808 2082138

If you are concerned for the safety of a child:

- If you believe the child to be in danger call the police on 999
- Contact a member of our Safeguarding Team
- Call Children Services on 0300 300 8585
- Call NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 Email: help@nspcc.org.uk Or complete our online form to report



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-synching and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

18

CENSORED

EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-synching and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

W&A#1

TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be "the next big thing" will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase "TikTok coins", which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.



Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 18s' accounts is "private". Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The "Stitch" (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and "Duet" (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 18s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

"Family Pairing" lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's "Digital Wellbeing" section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using "Restricted Mode". This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the "Digital Wellbeing" section. Under "Screen Time Management", you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.