

Online safety @ MFSA

Summer 2025

We have had reports of some of our children copying what they have seen on TikTok without realising what it means or that it is inappropriate.

What is TikTok?

TikTok is a free social media app where users can create, watch, and share short videos, typically 15 seconds to 3 minutes long. It's especially popular with children and teenagers, though many adults use it too. Content ranges from dance challenges and comedy to educational tips and trending news.



Why do kids like it?

- **Creativity:** Users can add music, filters, and effects to their videos.
- **Entertainment:** The app's algorithm quickly learns what users like and shows a constant stream of similar videos.
- **Community:** Users can comment, "like," follow others, and join in on trends and challenges.

Key features:

- **For You Page (FYP):** A personalized feed of videos based on what the app thinks the user will enjoy.
- **Following Page:** Content from accounts the user has chosen to follow.
- **Direct Messaging:** Users can chat privately, though this can be disabled.
- **Live Streaming:** Some users can stream live videos to their followers.
- **Duets and Stitches:** Tools to interact with or remix other users' videos.

Safety and Privacy Concerns:

- **Age Limit:** TikTok is meant for users 13+, but younger children may still access it.
- **Privacy:** Videos can be seen by the public unless the account is set to private.
- **Screen Time:** The endless scrolling can be addictive.
- **Inappropriate Content:** While TikTok moderates content, not all videos are age-appropriate.



Parental Controls:

TikTok offers **Family Pairing**, which allows parents to:

- Set screen time limits
- Restrict content
- Limit who can contact their child
- Disable direct messaging (under age 16)

TikTok can be a fun and creative platform, but it comes with risks. Regular conversations, privacy settings, and parental controls are key to ensuring a safe experience for children.

Don't forget about the age-appropriate apps that your child has access to through school. If they do access them, then remember to record it in their red home learning diary!



Let's work together to keep our children safe online! If you have any concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher.