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Head Teacher: Mr W Pedro



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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has come to our attention that some pupils at our school have been making and posting short videos online on TikTok.

Tik Tok is a social media platform allowing users to create and share videos. It is popular among teenagers and young children as they like to create lip sync and dance videos to their favourite music. These can be recorded and shared publicly or streamed live in real time to strangers.

TikTok requires its users to be at least 13 years old, although they have no controls in place to check users.

What parents need to know?

As it is a social media platform, TikTok encourages users to share and connect with other people: this can be people users do not know. There is no filter on the content that is shared, so inappropriate lyrics, sexually explicit videos and 'dares' are all shared for anyone to see. Anybody who is a user on TikTok can also contact anybody else and send direct messages.

What parents can do?

Consider the access to content, inappropriate or otherwise, that your child will have open access to on TikTok and whether you would be happy for them to access it.

If your child has friends over and is sharing videos on Tik Tok with them, consider whether their friends have permission from their parents or carers to post their videos online before doing so.

Show children how to block users that they do not wish to be following them – details on how to do this are available on the TikTok website:

<http://support.tiktok.com/knowledge-base/block-accounts>

Discuss oversharing – get children thinking about what they are intending to share and whether they will be happy for that to be online forever and be seen by anyone at anytime in the future.

Think about how children can unintentionally give away information about themselves such as their location, school or interests that can be something for criminals to exploit.



Remind your child that sharing other people's videos and photos is illegal, without the owners permission.

Secure your child's account so that videos are private and review this regularly to ensure changes to the TikTok platform do not leave your child's account vulnerable.

For further information:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Karen Langridge

IT Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead

