BRIGANTIA
LEARNING TRUST
Creating Excellence Together,
through a culture of care

Online Safety Newsletter
June 2024

Tik Tok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. Some of the videos may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security/privacy settings are applied.

Account set up

As always, it is important that when setting up an account, your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored to their age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private and we would recommend keeping it as this. This means your child must approve follower requests. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and switching on restricted mode here:

https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings. https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/

Parent Zone—TikTok Parent Guide

https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok

Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode. You can find out more here: https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/

Challenges on TikTok

Whilst against TikTok's guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be dangerous. If your child is using TikTok, chat to them regularly about what they are viewing.

TikTok Trends

We often see trends on social media, for example a latest trend found is around skin care routines, which can lead to children purchasing products that are completely unsuitable/dangerous for their skin. You can find out more here: https://www.bark.us/blog/skin-care-tweens/.

Stranger Contact

Talk to your child about who is following them online and remind them that people may not be who they say they are. It is important that children know not to share personal information.

Managing Screen Time

Are you worried your child has too much screentime? Would you like more advice on how to support your child in managing their screen time?

Internet Matters have a wealth of information on their website to help support you. This first link discusses how to get the most out of screen time and how to talk to your child about screen time based on their age: https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/protect-your-child

This second link provides advice on how to tackle too much screen time and what the signs of too much screen time might be: https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/deal-with-it/

This final link provides general online safety support: https://www.internetmatters.org/

internet matters.org

Internet Matters provides parents with resources and expert guidance to help them navigate the ever-changing world of child internet safety.

Video Chatting
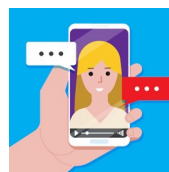
Does your child use a web cam or a device to video chat?

Video calls are a very popular way in which people connect with each other, this could be using Facetime on an iPhone, video calling in WhatsApp or perhaps livestreaming on social media as an example.

You should talk to your child about who they chat with and what they are sharing when they do. As with all apps and websites that your child accesses, make sure they know how to use any reporting tools and they know how to block other users if necessary.

It is important that your child is aware that what they say and do whilst video chatting can be recorded and shared later without their knowledge. Additionally, ensure your child understands that they must say no if they are asked to do anything that makes them feel uncomfortable and they should speak to a trusted adult when they have any concerns.

Childnet have written this blog to help you learn more about video chat and webcams. It also contains tips on how to manage risks whilst online: https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/video-chat-and-webcams-parents

National Online Safety Launches Free Online Safety App for Parents

Download the National Online Safety app for free – the world's most comprehensive online safety app for parents, carers and education staff. Available from the Android and Apple app store.

BRIGANTIA LEARNING TRUST
Creating Excellence Together, through a culture of care