



Ottery St Mary Primary School

Staying safe online: Using TikTok

What is it?

A video-sharing app. You lip-sync to music or do comedy sketches, and can add effects to your videos. You can also gain followers ('fans') and watch other people's videos.



Tik Tok

The age recommendation is 13 and above, but it's easy for younger children to sign up too.

Things to watch out for:

- User profiles talking about 'trading' or swapping pictures or videos
- Emojis that are seen as sexually suggestive, like the aubergine
- Hashtags, like #tradefortrade, which suggest the user is looking to trade illicit content
- Sexual lyrics and swearing in songs
- Content about eating disorders (known as 'pro-ana')

Users can't share images and videos with TikTok's in-app messaging, but once they've made contact, they can easily switch to another app, like Snapchat, to do this.

WE ARE SMART ONLINE

SECRET We keep our personal information secret

MEETING We never arrange to meet someone we only know online.

ACCEPTING We think before accepting friend requests or attachments.

RELIABLE We know not everything we see online is reliable or trustworthy.

TELL If we are ever worried, we 'turn off and tell' a trusted adult.

As with all online activities, we recommend the smart approach

Secret: Do not reveal personal information about yourself on Tiktok.

Meeting: Do not arrange to meet or message someone from Tiktok.

Accepting: Only accept fan requests from people you know.

Reliable: Know that not everything you see on Tiktok is trustworthy or true.

Tell: Report anything you see on Tiktok that makes you feel uncomfortable.



Steps to keep your child safe:

1. Set account to **private** and limit profile information.

If your account is public, anyone (even people with no account) can watch your TikTok videos. Even with a private account, anyone can see your child's profile information. Tell them **not to share personal information publicly, like their full name or where they go to school**. Tell your child to only accept 'fan' requests from people they **know and trust**.

To make the account private, simply go to your child's profile > Settings (the 3 dots in the top right) > Privacy and Safety > turn on 'Private Account'.

2. Use **family safety mode**

This is a new feature, where parents can control some settings on their child's account (more on which features below) from their own phone. You'll need to download TikTok and link your account to your child's. Once you've created a profile, go to your profile > Settings > Digital wellbeing > Family safety mode > Choose 'Parent'. Follow the same steps on your child's phone but choose 'Teen', then scan the QR code with your camera to link your accounts.

3. **Restrict interactions** like direct messages and 'duets'

Duets are where users reply to one person's video with another video and then share it all. The videos appear together, side by side. Having a private account automatically means you can't do duets, and stops people who aren't your friends sending you messages. If your child's account isn't private, they can restrict these features by going to Settings > Privacy and Safety > 'Who can send me messages' / 'Who can Duet with Me' > set to 'Off' or 'Friends'. If you have family safety mode set up, you can limit direct messages, or turn them off completely. You do this through the Digital wellbeing section.

4. **Set age limits** so your child doesn't see inappropriate content

You can do this through family safety mode, in the Digital wellbeing section. If you're not using family safety mode, on your child's phone go to Settings > Digital wellbeing > Restricted mode > follow the steps in the app.

5. Consider **setting a time limit** on use

TikTok can be hard to put down – help your child rein in their use with a time limit. You can do this through the Digital wellbeing section in either family safety mode, or on your child's phone. Go to the Digital wellbeing section > Screen time management > follow the steps in the app.



6. Restrict in-app purchases to block spending

On iPhones, if you already have Screen Time turned on, go to Settings > Content and Privacy Restrictions > enter your passcode if asked > turn on Content and Privacy > tap iTunes and App Store Purchases > In-app Purchases > set to Don't Allow.

If you don't already have Screen Time turned on, go to Settings > Screen Time > tap to turn it on > choose whether it's your device or your child's device > follow the steps to set up a passcode. Then just follow the steps above to block in-app purchases.

On Android, open Play Store, tap the menu button in the top left > scroll to Settings > Require Authentication for purchases > Select 'For all purchases through Google Play on this device'. Keep an eye on your bank statements for in-app purchases to make sure your child isn't getting round your parental controls.

7. Make sure your child knows how to report content and users

Filters aren't perfect, so make sure your child knows how to report harmful or upsetting content or users. Make sure you both know the rules too – TikTok bans sexually explicit content, bullying, graphic content, "pro-anorexia" content, and hate speech. To report a user, go to their profile > Settings > Report > follow the steps in the app. To delete a fan, your child should go to their Profile > Followers > tap the follower they want to remove > tap the 3 dots icon > tap Block.

To block users altogether, go to their profile > Settings > Block > follow the steps in the app You report specific content through the video, comment or message itself. To report a video or message: open it, then tap Share > Report > follow the steps in the app. To report a comment: tap the comment > Report > follow the steps in the app.



Remind your child to talk to you about the things they have seen online, and try to remain calm and reassuring - one of the main reasons children will be reluctant to report online incidents is a fear of 'getting into trouble'.

Remember, if you have concerns about the content your child has seen online, you can report it to one of **CEOP's** child protection advisors.

www.ceop.police.uk

