Parayhouse School

Online Safety Newsletter: Jan/Feb 2022

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. Users can watch musical clips, record clips (it includes lots of lip synching and dancing), edit them and add special effects.

Why should I be concerned?
You need to be aware that some of the videos may contain explicit language and sexual imagery, which may not be suitable for your child to view. There is also the risk of strangers contacting your child so make sure you have set up the appropriate settings. If your child is using TikTok then we recommend setting the account as private (this is the default setting for users under 16 since Jan 2021). Even with a private account, your child's profile information such as their photo and bio are still visible so ensure your child understands the importance of not adding personal information (e.g. location, age and phone numbers) to this area.

Family Pairing
This allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's account. This will allow you to set controls such as restricted mode (limit the appearance of inappropriate content) and screen time management (control how long they can spend on TikTok each day).
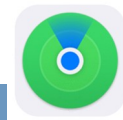
Challenges and Trends
Lots of them are fun and not harmful but sometimes they can be risky. TikTok have produced this resource to help you talk to your child about challenges and the potential risks: https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/online-challenges/

Blocking and Reporting
As with similar apps, there is the ability to report and block other users so ensure your child knows how to use these features:
- https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem
- https://support.tiktok.com/en/using-tiktok/followers-andfollowing/blocking-the-users

Find my phone
Did you know that you can set up location settings on your phone (and for your child) so you can share your location and find out where they are? Talk to your child about why you are setting this up and when and why you will check their location. Find out more using the links below.

Apple: https://www.apple.com/uk/icloud/findmy/ or use this link if you have Family Sharing set up: https://support.apple.com/engb/HT201087

Android: https://support.google.com/android/an swer/3265955#zippy=%2Cstep-checkthat-find-my-device-is-on or use this link if you have Family Link set up: https://support.google.com/families/an swer/7103413?hl=en

Fortnite

Is your child playing Fortnite? It is rated **PEGI 12** for frequent mild violence which means it is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age.

It is important to remember that when rating games, PEGI do not take into consideration the communication features of a game. Fortnite does include a chat facility, which adds further risks.

What is Fortnite?

There are different versions of Fortnite, including a free-to-play Battle Royale game (although money can be spent within the game) where up to 100 players compete against each other.

What do I need to be aware of?

- Chatting to strangers and inappropriate language: Fortnite contains voice and text chat. Due to the nature of the game, your child may be chatting to strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report players for any inappropriate behaviour.
- In app purchases: All users can purchase V-Bucks directly through the game. This currency can be used to purchase items in the Fortnite store so make sure you don't store your payment details within the game/device and restrict purchases.

Parental Controls

Fortnite includes several parental controls to help you make it a safer environment for your child including disabling voice chat, filtering language and setting privacy settings.

Further information: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gamingconsoles/fortnite-chapter-2-battle-royale-parental-controls-guide/

Helping My Autistic Child Stay Safe Online

The Ann Craft Trust and The Marie Collins Foundation have joined forces to create a resource to help parents and children understand various online risks.

The booklet includes information about what online harm is and ways you can effectively help and support your children.

Download a copy here:

https://www.anncrafttrust.org/helping -my-autistic-child-stay-safe-online

Helpful links for parents:

Parent INFO: Help and advice for families in a digital world. Parent Info is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP, providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations

Thinkyouknow Highly recommended is the Thinkyouknow website. This is an education initiative by CEOP - the UKs national law enforcement agency that focuses on tackling sexual abuse of children.

Google: visit Google's Safety Centre to learn how to change Google's search settings to Safe Search filtering:http://www.google.co.uk/familysafety/tools.html