

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER



November 2022

Introducing our Hart School Safeguarding Newsletter

Safeguarding is such an important issue for our young people that we have decided to introduce a Monthly newsletter that shares key information with parents/carers, staff and students so that we can all work together to keep children safe in school, at home and in the wider community.

Safeguarding relates to many areas of life at The Hart School including children's physical health and safety, mental health issues, attendance, managing medical conditions, internet safety, substance misuse, bullying, child sexual exploitation, the dangers of radicalisation, gang culture, FGM, neglect, domestic violence, forced marriages, sexual relationships, British Values and road safety amongst other issues.

Useful Acronyms & Vocabulary about Safeguarding

DSL: Designated Safeguarding Lead

PREVENT: Governments Counter-Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn into extremism.

CP: Child Protection

CEOP: Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre (tackling child sexual abuse and providing advice) Early Help: agency that provide support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life.

FGM: Female Genital Mutilation

CAMHS: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

CCE: Child Criminal Exploitation

What is the role of the DSL

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has a crucial role in taking lead responsibility for child protection issues in school. The DSL must be a senior member of the school's leadership team, Mrs Lewis is our Designated Safeguarding Lead and Miss Taylor is our Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead.



Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Lewis
Assistant Principal



Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Miss Taylor



Safeguarding Officer
Miss Sandham
Principal



Safeguarding Officer
Mrs Watt
Attendance Officer



Safeguarding Officer
Mr Lewis
Assistant Principal



Safeguarding Officer
Mrs Godridge
Student Support Officer



Safeguarding Officer
Ms Kinnstein
Exams Officer

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What is TikTok?

TikTok is a free social media platform for creating and watching short videos and sharing them with friends and strangers. Clips are often created using short grabs of music and can be enhanced by a range of tools such as filters, animation, and special effects. Most videos produced are of young people lip-syncing and dancing to popular music but there are also talent videos, comedy skits, challenges, and informational clips.

Why should I be concerned?

You need to be aware that some of the songs used in this app may contain explicit language and sexual imagery, which may not be suitable for your child to view.

Privacy settings

If your child is using TikTok then we recommend setting the account as private. Even with a private account, your child's profile information such as their photo and bio is still visible so ensure your child understands the importance of not adding personal information (e.g. address, age and phone numbers) to this area.

Family safety mode

TikTok have created Family Pairing to help you keep your child safe whilst using TikTok. Family Pairing allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's account. This will allow you to control: - Screen Time Management: Control how long they can spend on TikTok each day. - Restricted Mode: Limit the appearance of inappropriate content. - Direct Messages: Restrict who can send messages to them (e.g. only approved followers) or turn off direct messaging completely. TikTok now automatically disables Direct Messages for registered accounts under the age of 16.

What is the minimum age for TikTok?

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

Challenges and Trends

You can find challenges which trend on TikTok (along with other apps), lots of them are fun and not harmful but sometimes they can be risky. Talk to your child about challenges as a whole that may appear on the internet and making sure they know that they can talk to you about what they see online. Talk to them about the potential risks that may arise from participating in certain challenges.

Blocking and Reporting

As with similar apps, there is the ability to report (<https://support.tiktok.com/en/privacy-safety/reportinappropriate-content-en>) and block other users (<https://support.tiktok.com/en/privacy-safety/blockaccounts-default>) so ensure your child knows how to use the reporting features within this app and is able to block other users if necessary. TikTok have produced a number of "You're in Control" videos to show users how to use TikTok more safely. These are available here: <https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/youre-in-controlvideo-series-stars-tiktok-creators-to-educate-usersabout-safety-features>

Talk to your child

- Why does your child use it?
- What do they like about it?
- Do they know their followers?
- What do they like watching on it?
- Have they ever seen anything that has worried them?

Talk to your child about what they share on TikTok, they must understand the importance of not sharing personal information and to think carefully about what they do share online.

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What is Online Safety?

Being safe online means individuals are protecting themselves and others from online harms and risks which may jeopardise their personal information, lead to unsafe communications or even affect their mental health and wellbeing.

What can I do to keep my child safe online?

Talking regularly with your child is the greatest tool to help keep them safe online. Talking regularly and making it part of daily conversation, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed. It also means when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.

How do I ensure an app my child is using is safe?

Always check default settings as they might include things like GPS location tracking, public WiFi and camera or chat access. It's important to turn these off so your child can't be identified.

Setting up parent controls

Your home WiFi network and TV settings should be password protected. Think about setting up accounts for your children so they're only seeing age-appropriate content. For example, on TV streaming services like Netflix, account to their child's account. This will allow you to control: - Screen Time Management: Control how long they can spend on TikTok each day. - Restricted Mode: Limit the appearance of inappropriate content. - Direct Messages: Restrict who can send messages to them (e.g. only approved followers) or turn off direct messaging completely. TikTok now automatically disables Direct Messages for registered accounts under the age of 16.

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The most up to date news we have on Tik Tok comes from the BBC:

TikTok has now raised its Livestreaming Age Requirement to 18 (BBC News)

TikTok has frequently been called out for its glaring failures to protect under 18s which use its service. With its flashy images, easily digestible content and 'childlike' feel it has always been popular among school aged children. A fact which has made its safeguarding failures all the more worrying. The platform's attempt to ban under 18s seems to be unfeasible however, and so it is as important as ever to be aware of its usage. In particular, its gift function can easily be manipulated in order to commit criminal acts against children. As such wariness around the app should not be lowered as a result. To find out more about what motivated their decision, and its potential outcomes head over to the page linked below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-63262102>

Monday 21 November 2022