

FOCUS ON... TIKTOK



WHAT IS TIKTOK?

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TikTok is a app where people make and share short videos. Think of it like a big online stage where you can dance, sing, act, or just be silly and creative. People use filters, special effects, and music to make their videos more exciting. You can also watch videos made by other people from all over the world.

DUET: ALLOWS USERS TO RECORD A VIDEO ALONGSIDE ANOTHER USER'S VIDEO, TYPICALLY DISPLAYED SIDE-BY-SIDE.

STITCH: PERMITS USERS TO INCORPORATE UP TO FIVE SECONDS OF ANOTHER USER'S VIDEO INTO THEIR OWN, OFTEN USED TO RESPOND OR ADD CONTEXT.

CHALLENGES

TikTok Challenges are viral trends where users are encouraged to perform specific actions, dances, stunts, or pranks – often set to music. While many are fun and creative, others can be risky or harmful

TEENS MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO JOIN IN FOR SOCIAL VALIDATION – EVEN IF IT'S RISKY OR INAPPROPRIATE.

JUST REMEMBER

Once an image or video leaves your device, you lose control over what someone else may choose to do with it—today, tomorrow, or even years from now.

64%
of children have experienced cyberbullying on TikTok, ranking it among the top platforms for such incidents.

TikTok posts are **private by default** and only visible to friends and followers. Users **under 18** can't make their posts public, and those aged **13-15** can only comment on their friends' photos or videos.

FOR YOU PAGE (FYP)

The For You Page (FYP) is TikTok's main feed – your videos can go viral even without a huge following.

- While the 'For You' page algorithm is designed to personalise content, it raises concerns about potential harm - especially for younger users.
- Users can be exposed to videos that are inappropriate or upsetting, such as content related to violence, sexual assault, or other disturbing events.
- TikTok's algorithm can trap users in a content loop, reinforcing existing biases and limiting exposure to diverse perspectives.

TIKTOK LIVE

TikTok LIVE enables creators to stream live video content to their followers. Viewers can comment, send virtual gifts, and engage directly with the streamer in real time.

Because live content is unfiltered and happens in real time, users may be exposed to explicit, sexual, offensive, or harmful material – either from what is being streamed or from viewer comments.

KEEPING SAFE ON TIKTOK

Use Family Pairing: Link your TikTok account to your child's with Family Pairing to manage screen time, content restrictions, and direct messages.

Have honest conversations with your child about online safety, responsible use, and potential dangers.

Watch TikTok with your child now and then – it helps you understand what they're seeing and helps you spot harmful content or behaviour before it becomes a problem.

TikTok is addictive by design because its algorithm quickly learns what content you like and delivers an endless stream of personalised videos.

You can always seek further support and guidance from WhatsApp online.