



Dear Parents and Careers,

Following concerns within the local authority, I would like to share information and recommendations regarding keeping your child safe on the social media app TicTok.

With more than 100 million users, Tik Tok is one of the fastest growing social media platforms in the world. TikTok is a free app that lets you watch, create, and share videos -- often to a soundtrack of pop chart hits. However **TikTok account holders must be 13 and older, and those under 18 need parental permission.**

TikTok is struggling to take down a post that has gone viral containing a graphic clip of a suicide. The footage, which has been circulating on the platform for several days, originated on Facebook and has also been shared on Twitter and Instagram.

Many young people have reported coming across the video and being traumatised by the content. It is reported that some users are sharing the video, disguised behind images of kittens or other content. Others have put together their own videos warning about the content and urging people to delete it. The app said it would ban accounts repeatedly uploading clips.

If a younger child wants to use the app, there's a section of the app for under 13s that includes additional safety and privacy features. Children can only see curated, clean videos, and aren't allowed to comment, search, or post their own videos. However, the lack of these features makes it unappealing for most children, and bypassing that section only requires entering a false birthdate.

When you sign up for TikTok, your account is public by default, meaning anyone can see your videos, send you direct messages, and use your location information. Parents should make sure to turn on all privacy settings for accounts children are using, so only people you know can interact with your videos or message you on the app. That means either opting for a private account or changing the settings for comments, duets, reactions, and messages to "Friends" instead of "Everyone." You can also turn those features off completely.

Please find attached information to ensure the correct parental controls and put in place to ensure your child's safety.

Mr Best
Computing Lead



TikTok Parental Controls



Thanks to "Family Safety Mode", parents and guardians are getting access to Digital Wellbeing toggles that allow them to manage how much time their children spend in the app. They can also limit who sends messages to them and turn off direct messaging completely. Finally, they can restrict the appearance of content that may not be appropriate for kids.

How to enable Family Safety Mode

According to TikTok, **adults who want to use Family Safety Mode must create their own account**, which they can then link to a teen's account (TikTok has an age limit of 13). Once that's done, they will be able to take advantage of the security features under Digital Wellbeing in Settings.

1. An adult must open TikTok on both phones.
2. Go to profile, then head to settings
3. Scroll down to Digital Wellbeing.
4. Tap Family Safety Mode
5. Choose whether the phone belongs to the adult or the teen.
6. You'll have to scan a QR code on one phone with the other to link the accounts.
7. Now, the adult can access the parent password-protect security features.

How Family Safety Mode works

Here's how the security features in TikTok's Family Safety Mode work:

Screen Time Management

You can control how long your teen spends on TikTok each day.

1. Open the latest version of the TikTok app on your teen's device.
2. Go to profile, then head to settings
3. Scroll down to Digital Wellbeing.
4. Select Screen Time Management.
5. Press the red button to turn it on.

6. Set and confirm a passcode.
7. The time limit is then set to 60 minutes

To turn off Screen Time Management, repeat steps one through four and then tap "Turn off Screen Time Management."

Direct Messages

You can limit who sends messages to your teen's account, or you can turn off direct messaging completely.

1. Open the latest version of the TikTok app on your teen's device.
2. Go to profile, then head to settings (it's the "... " button in the corner).
3. Scroll down to Privacy and safety.
4. Select Who can send you messages.
5. Choose Everyone, Friends, or Off.

You can also limit comments and other engagement tools in TikTok.

Restricted Mode

You can restrict the appearance of content that may not be appropriate for kids. It's not clear how well this works, as TikTok hasn't revealed how it screens videos. For an app of this scale, it's likely a mix of AI and users flagging videos. We suspect it's not always 100 per cent accurate.

1. Open the latest version of the TikTok app on your teen's device.
2. Go to profile, then head to settings (it's the "... " button in the corner).
3. Scroll down to Digital Wellbeing.
4. Select Restricted Mode.
5. Tap "Turn on Restricted Mode.
6. Set and confirm a passcode.

To turn off Restricted Mode, repeat steps one through four and then tap "Turn off Restricted Mode."