



# Safeguarding News



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## TikTok

As TikTok, and its dance moves, still appears to be one of the most popular social media apps currently out there, this month we are highlighting the best ways to keep your child safe should you let them use it. Remember, guidance tells us that children under the age of 13 should not be using the app and the awful recent video which was posted on the app was a stark reminder why the age restriction is needed and appropriate.

TikTok have now come up with 9 tips to help keep your child safe while enjoying the app with your permission.

1. **Enable device-level parental controls.**
2. **Set your child's account to private-**A private account means you can approve or deny follower requests, and only users you've approved as followers can see your content.
3. **Decide who can follow you-** Even if your child has a private account, they can manage who follows their account by removing followers or blocking users and at any time, for any reason. Removing a follower will curtail that user's ability to send your child a direct message, while blocking a user will also stop them from interacting with or viewing your child's content at all.
4. **Limit the content you see-** If your child comes across a video that doesn't interest them, they can simply long-press on that video and tap 'Not Interested' to see less of that sort of video in the future.



**5. Control the comment section-** Whether an account is private or public, your child has the power to decide whether they want to allow comments on their videos from everyone, followers only – or restrict them altogether.

**6. Set messaging preferences-** Messaging can be a great way to trade creative ideas with other users, but on TikTok only your child's followers can send them a private message. Your child can unfollow or block a user to stop an individual's ability to send a DM (direct message), or disable messaging entirely from their privacy settings.

**7. Restrict duets.**

**8. Report anything that violates our guidelines.**

**9. Put a cap on screen time-**Screen Time Management offers a way to limit the time your child spends on the app each day. The feature, a part of TikTok's Digital Wellbeing offerings, lives behind a passcode and can be enabled for various time limits up to 2 hours. At the device level, screen time can also be managed directly through parental controls in Android and iOS device settings.

Remember, check who your child is talking to on-line. Be curious, encourage them to talk to you and share what they are watching. But, most of all, teach them how to stay safe, healthy and happy.

**Final thoughts...**

**Be safe.  
Be patient.  
Be kind.**

#### SAFEGUARDING REMINDERS

As always, keeping our children safe online is vitally important and taking the steps outlined above will help you to do so. Remember if you wish to discuss anything regarding safeguarding then please use our email address [headteacher@stjamesacademy.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@stjamesacademy.co.uk) or contact Miss Minor, our Designated Safeguarding Lead. You can also contact Mrs Lloyd, Mrs Butterworth, Mrs Hambleton or Miss Hirst with regards to this.

