

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has come to my attention that a significant number of children in the school have been using the app called "Tik Tok" **and that parents are aware of this. Children have to actively lie about their age to open an account!**

I must express my extreme concern that some of our children are using this age restricted app and are putting themselves at risk of cyber bullying or being groomed by sexual predators. Unfortunately the rise of social media use has led to a huge increase of self-harm cases and anxiety and depression the children of the UK. I would urge you to attend the e safety awareness training that we are holding on April 3rd (poster to follow) so you can help your children stay safe online.

Tik Tok is the second generation of an app called Music.ly which ceased to operate after there were **1100 cases of grooming.**

I have included some facts about Tik Tok below:

- *Users can like or react to a video, follow an account or send messages to each other. There is the risk that **strangers will be able to directly contact children** on the app.*
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- *Tik Tok is an app that is open to the world, so mature content can (and does) appear in the stream.*
- *Tik Tok is rated 12+ on the Apple app store and "teen maturity" on Google Play. However, there is no system in place to verify a user's age, so anyone can download it. Because of the access to inappropriate content, and the use of popular music that may contain explicit language, this is not an app for young kids.*
- *Sexual predators and paedophiles do use such apps to target and contact children and young teens*
- *Social media and chat apps have long been a cause of concern for parents and adults, as well as a source of viral online warnings about the dangers to children of cyber-predators.*

Please be vigilant and follow the age guidance of apps to ensure your child doesn't become yet another statistic. Thank you for your continued support

Mr M Clifford