Safeguarding for TikTok

What is it?

An app giving users the opportunity to **share short videos** with the world.

Content includes special effects, with funny sketches, stunts, lip-syncs, and so much more.

Age restriction:

13 and over but no age verification process

Popularity

TikTok has over **a billion users**! It is particularly popular for those age 13 to 24.

Great for:

- **Expressing yourself**, gaining a following, and building a community who share interests.
- Impressive **special effects** and video editing tools make it easy to create **unique and creative content**.
- Users with even the smallest followings can go **viral overnight** with good content. .
- The app **adapts to your interests**, so the more you watch one type of content, the more of that you'll see.

Risks:

- By default **all accounts are public** so anyone on the app can see what you share and **your location**.
- Strangers can **directly contact users** on the app.
- Really **risky behaviour** gets a lot of attention, for example jumping across buildings, tempting some users to take excessive risks to build their following.
- Some content covers **sensitive topics,** such as serious mental health issues; the longer a user watches content for, the more of it they will see.

How can you make it safer?

- Accounts can be made **private**.
- **'Restricted mode'** filters out inappropriate content.
- The app considers **digital wellbeing,** alerting users who have been on the app for more than two hours. Is the person you're working with getting these kind of notifications?
- **Ask who they follow on Tiktok** and take a look at what those users post; it'll give you insight on what interests them and what they might be dealing with.

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