



Online Safety Newsletter: March 2019

Tik Tok including Musical.ly

Music.ly was closed in August last year and users were automatically migrated to TikTok. TikTok state that users must be aged 13+.



Users can watch musical clips, record 60 second clips, edit them and add special effects. Due to the nature of this app, videos may be inappropriate for some users due to their sexual nature or explicit language.

If you do choose to allow your child to set up an account then we recommend users have a private account to control who can see their videos and who can send them messages. Even with a private account, profile information (profile photo, username and bio) is seen by all users so ensure your child understands not to reveal any personal information in their profile e.g. don't wear a school uniform in your profile picture. To set your child's account to private:

- Go to your profile page, Tap on the top right corner and select "Privacy and Settings", Select "Privacy and Safety" option and toggle "Private Account" on/off

Tik Tok includes a 'Digital Wellbeing feature' to control the amount of time your child spends on the app and a 'Restricted mode' to limit the appearance of content that may be inappropriate. To set this:

- Select "Digital Wellbeing" under the app settings, tap "Turn On" and set a passcode, Toggle "Screen Time Management" and/or "Restricted Mode"

More information is available here:

http://support.tiktok.com/?ht_kb=for-parents

Do you know what Catfishing is?

This is when someone creates a fake online profile pretending they are somebody else to trick others. People of all ages have been 'catfished'. More information is available here: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/catfishing-online-safety-guide/>

Secret Conversations on Facebook

Whilst Facebook is less popular amongst teenagers it is still worthwhile keeping up to date with all features.

Secret conversations have been available for a while now but not everyone is aware of them.

Messages (which can include text, stickers and photos) can only be viewed on the device from which they've been sent so even if you have your child's account details, you won't be able to see the messages if you are not on the same device. Plus, secret conversations can be sent with a timer so that they disappear from their phone and the recipient's phone within a set time e.g. 10 seconds.

Secret conversations can be reported and/or the person can be blocked. It is important to ensure that your child knows how to use the reporting tools of any apps/websites that they use and they know to tell a trusted adult if they do have any concerns.

Further information is available here:

<https://parentinfo.org/article/staying-safe-on-facebook-secret-conversations-a-parent-s-guide>

Instagram

Instagram are doing more to support vulnerable users and will now not allow any graphic images of self-harm, such as cutting on their platform. More information here:

<https://instagram-press.com/blog/2019/02/07/changes-were-making-to-do-more-to-support-and-protect-the-most-vulnerable-people-who-use-instagram>

Do you know the average age of an online gamer?

Average Female age = 36

Average Male age = 32

PEGI ratings explained



This rating means that the game contains elements that encourage or teach gambling. Games with this sort of content are PEGI 12, PEGI 16 or PEGI 18.

Advertising on Social Media

A recent BBC Panorama investigation found that a teenager lost money on a gambling-type game which was promoted by a YouTuber who the child followed (source:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/c8b3c39d-84df-4424-b42f-c04f26c8560f>).

Following this, we thought it important that young people learn and understand that people they follow on social media may, at times, be paid by brands to promote their product in some way.

The endorser must make it clear they are doing this (or in the UK they are



breaking the law) by adding some form of disclosure e.g. **#ad**. However, there are several YouTubers who are endorsing products and don't always clearly disclose that their post is an ad.

From April, gambling adverts will no longer be allowed to appear on websites or in computer games that are popular with children. Full story here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2019/feb/13/gambling-adverts-banned-child-friendly-websites-games>

Tellonym (a play on the words "Tell on him") 13+ to register (17+ on iOS devices)

There are lots of anonymous messaging apps and websites out there, Tellonym is one of them. To register, a user must state that they are 13+ (on iOS devices, you must state you are over 17). A user then receives a link that they can share on other social media channels so people can ask them a question anonymously. Users can block other users, set a filter to block specific words and can also report inappropriate messages. **Due to the anonymous nature of this app it can be misused and cyberbullying is a concern.** As with all apps that your child is accessing, we encourage you to explore it yourself first to evaluate it. Just looking at the reviews for this app will raise concerns.

More information is available from Commonsense Media: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/app-reviews/tellonym>