

Moving forward into Term 2, our newly elected house reps will be working to gather student feedback on our Anti-Bullying policy as part of Novembers national Anti-Bullying week so that we can make student led improvements to our work to further reduce bullying incidents and increase the reporting and support mechanisms when this type of behaviour happens. During the behaviour review and Anti-Bullying survey completed last term, our students continue to demonstrate a good understanding of types of bullying and appropriate responses to situations which may arise both in person and online.

Thank you also for your support with the rule change surrounding the use of mobile phones on the school site. This change is now embedded and will continue to be enforced. The 'see it, hear it, lose it' policy for phones across the school day has seen an increase in positive peer engagement at break and lunch and a reduction in student conflict over social media. Phones confiscated for the first time can be collected by students at the end of the school day with subsequent confiscations being picked up by parents.

e-Safety

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TIKTOK

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-synching and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
 Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of eating and self-harm or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The user volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – mid-2022 users can view third-party content outside the app.

HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY
 Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

EXPLICIT SONGS
 Most of the primary music around TikTok consists of users lip-synching and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Often the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

ADDICTIVE NATURE
 Like all social media platforms, TikTok can be extremely addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to stop using. In addition, the app's ability to keep users entertained about what's coming next means it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

TIKTOK FAME
 The app has created its own celebrities. Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok, leading to many more tests attempting to go viral and become 'TikTok famous'. While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.

IN-APP SPENDING
 There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 1p to 4p an eye-winkling 100 bundles. It is also connected with 'Shopify', which allows users to buy products through the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT
 Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app, ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS
 The default setting for all under-18 accounts is 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Follow' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are not only disabled to their list. The request align with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will verify their account against predators.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING
 With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING
 'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through that mobile, you can control your child's safety settings, including their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of other settings. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

USE RESTRICTED MODE
 In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can limit inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME
 As entertaining as TikTok is, you can set a limit on how long your child can use it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 30 minutes) to 'bedtime'. This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

Meet Our Expert
 Haven't got a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids In Clicks, a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

National Online Safety
 #WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.10.2021

Over the last term we have worked to support the professional development of colleague's awareness of e-Safety via National Online Safety CPD courses as we work to secure their e-Safety accreditation. The ever-changing landscape of e-Safety can be a challenge both in school and at home and I am pleased to be able to share that parents can also sign up to access the website/app which is available for both iPhone and Android devices. There is a parent e-Safety module which I hope may be of interest to you as you work to support your son/daughter at home. In addition to this each week a new theme or topic is shared with parents via their 'Wake up Wednesday' summary sheets. An example from last week for TikTok is shown here for information and can be viewed when you register.

Please register via the following link:
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/fitzharrys-school>

Attendance

Thank you for your continued support with attendance. Positive attendance continues to be a key component of academic success and despite the challenges of COVID-19 our headline attendance figures remain strong and are above the initial national data which we have received. Our attendance tracking continues in school and our aspiration of 100% attendance for all students each term remains with this challenge reset for Term 2. All of our

students should be aiming to be in the gold or green attendance groups on our attendance diamond as attendance in excess of 95% will statistically give them the best opportunity for academic success. Although our high aspirations remain it is important that precautions are taken with regard to COVID-19. If your son/daughter has any of the COVID-19 symptoms, they must get a PCR test and follow the latest Government guidance.

Uniform

Thank you for your continued support and helping us to secure compliance regarding our uniform. Our students look exceptionally smart and wear our uniform with pride. Our guidance materials are located on the school website and our rules remain unchanged. No trainers may be worn and as we head into the colder months of the year it is important that appropriate coats are worn which offer protection to the elements. Hooded tops are not allowed and will continue to be confiscated along with other banned items for collection at the end of the school day.

COVID-19 testing

The distribution of home testing kits looks set to continue and colleagues in our Admin team have done a fantastic job of maintaining supplies and completing the distribution via form tutors. Please do continue to support the lateral flow testing at home as they have been successful in identifying asymptomatic cases in our community. Without the support and engagement of students and parents we would certainly have had more cases in school.

The continued testing on a Sunday evening/Monday morning and Wednesday evening/Thursday morning remains the expected frequency. Please continue to report your test results to both school and the Government site so that we can monitor testing engagement.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support in helping us maintain the high standards we have for all at Fitzharrys. If you would like to discuss any issues raised in this letter, or require further clarification before purchasing items of uniform, accessing ePraise or National Online Safety please do not hesitate to contact either your son's/daughter's Head of Year, Student Wellbeing Manager or myself at the school.

Best wishes to you all for Term 2 and the rest of the academic year.

Yours sincerely



Ali Williams
Assistant Headteacher – Personal Development



Fitzharrys School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust.
Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales. Company No. 7931886
Registered Office: Rush Common School, Hendred Way, Abingdon. OX14 2AW