

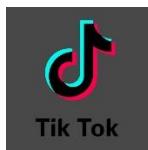


Safeguarding Newsletter - January 2019

Edition 6

General Information

App alert: The following apps are rated as 13+ for TikTok and 17+ for Kik.



TikTok - which used to be called Musical.ly, is a social networking app that young people can use to generate and share their own short videos and lip sync to popular audio clips. The app allows users to create and upload videos, remix existing videos using inbuilt editing tools, and also to view and comment on videos created by other users. Because the app allows users to create videos using current and popular music, some of the songs contain explicit swearing, sexual content and references that may be inappropriate for younger users. As users create their own content some videos posted in the app can contain inappropriate clothing or gestures. According to reviews on Common Sense Media some parents have also reported seeing videos containing sexually suggestive or even explicit material.

Kik is a mobile app that people can use to text with friends at high speed and with more of a "face-to-face feel" than regular texting (users' profile pictures appear in a little bubble next to their text, and they can quickly text photos, sketches, or even pre-designed greeting cards to individuals or groups). The app is rated ages 17+, but there is no age verification so anyone can download it. Like some other instant messenger apps, Kik allows your teen to connect with others using just a username (rather than texting from her phone number). The app has been linked to cyberbullying.



Domestic Abuse Support App Bright Sky is a free mobile app providing support and information to those who are in an abusive relationship or concerned about someone they know. The app focuses on how to tackle domestic abuse, stalking and harassment, and provides advice about online safety and sexual consent. It can be downloaded from any phone's app store. The app is available to use in English, Punjabi and Urdu. The app encourages people experiencing domestic abuse to log private journal entries in the form of text, photos and videos, which are then sent to a designated email address. This information can be sent to the authorities at a later date. The app also uses GPS to find help points nearby and offers advice for people in an abusive relationship, or for people who are concerned about someone else.

As more and more children are playing games online either on their new consoles, tablets or mobile phone I thought it would be useful for you to know the PEGI ratings for games.

PEGI Ratings: PEGI ratings are there to tell you the age suitability of the game, not how difficult the game is! Apps in the Google play store and Apple store are also PEGI rated.

