



# Bishop Aldhelm's CE Primary School

*Loved by God; United in Learning*

Headteacher: Scott Tait Deputy Headteacher: Lizzie Sharpe

16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Online Safety- Advice to Parents**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been made aware of cases in the local community where children have been targetted by strangers online. Children have been contacted online through a number of apps including TikTok and Roblox.

### **General advice for parents when children are using the internet:**

- Ask them to show you which social media apps they use and what they like about them. Talk about how they use them and what makes them so engaging
- Explain how you can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts & images
- Check if any of their apps have 'geo-location' enabled, sharing their location unintentionally
- Show them how to report offensive comments or block people who upset them
- Check 'tagging' settings so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed. Also, get people's consent before sharing photos
- Encourage your child to come and talk to you if they see anything that upsets them

What is clear is that when talking with the children involved in cases, they are able to explain ways to keep themselves safe online however they have not recognised this in their own actions/experiences. They can talk the talk and know what to do but in the 'moment' are not able to draw on what they know.

### **What is TikTok?**

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 in-built editing tools, and also to view and comment on videos created by other users.

### **What do parents need to be aware of with TikTok?**

The minimum age for TikTok is 13.

As users create their own content some videos posted in the app can contain inappropriate clothing or gestures. Users also have the ability to interact and chat to other users of the app through the comment section under videos and the private messaging function. Private messages can only be sent between users who are follow each other or are 'friends' and the messaging function can also be turned off entirely.



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## Ways for parents to keep children safe when using TikTok

You can find the privacy & safety settings within the "Privacy and Settings" section on the TikTok app.

Allow others to find me- by disabling this function other users can't find you when searching for your TikTok profile.

Private account - you can set your account to private, so only your friends can see your videos.

Who Can Send Me Comments - choose who can comment under your videos.

Who Can Duet with Me - decide who can duet with you.

Who Can React to Me - decide who can react to your videos.

Who Can Send Me Messages - choose who can send you private messages on TikTok.

Filter Comments- use the self-defined comment filter to make sure no one can post comments under your videos using words that you find hurtful.

Allow Download- disable downloads to ensure no one can download your videos.

My Block List- you can block people on TikTok you don't want to interact with. Moreover, before uploading each video, the app lets you decide who you want to share it with.

Top Tip: Even after uploading each video you can still make changes to its privacy settings.

To change who can see your video after uploading it click on the three dots next to the video and go to "Permission Settings".

## What is Roblox?

Roblox is a gaming platform where multiple players interact and play together online. The site has a collection of games aimed at 8-18 year olds, however players of all ages can use the site. Roblox is currently available on PC, phone, tablet and Xbox One.

## What do parents need to be aware of with Roblox?

Whilst the games are aimed at 8-18 year olds, there are no age restrictions. This means both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other on the platform.

All games are multiplayer and include a written chat feature, which is visible to players within each individual game. Users can also make and receive friend requests during gameplay and this means that they can chat to each other outside of the game.

However, because content is user-generated it can mean that some games might not be appropriate for young children. For example, whilst the graphics are not very life like, some of the games feature weapons and blood.



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## Ways for parents to keep children safe when using Roblox

Make sure your child knows how to find and use the report and block functions.

### Safety settings:

Set up the parental controls that are right for your family. You can also disable chat, set up the Parent PIN and use the Account Restrictions within Roblox. [Click here](#) for more information on how to use the Safety features.

### Settings for under 13s:

There are additional safety features for under-13s, so it's worth checking your child's account is registered with the correct age. Players under the age of 13 have a <13 symbol next to their username on the game at all times, however this is not displayed to other players.

Set rules around spending money in/on games.

If you have any concerns about how to support your child's safety online, please do get in contact with us in school so that we can support.

Many thanks,

Lizzie Sharpe  
Deputy Headteacher  
Designated Safeguarding Leader



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