eSmart Newsletter
Term 2 2019

In this edition, we are going to focus on the app 'TikTok.' (previously known as musical.ly). Although the app is rated 12+, we are aware that many of our students have this home app on their devices. We thought we would share some information about the app in an effort to help parents keep their kids safe...

Overview of Tik Tok

TikTok (previously known as lip-syncing app musical.ly) is a social media app which gives users the opportunity to create and share short videos with family, friends and the entire world.

After a merger between musical.ly and TikTok, all previous users of musical.ly are now users of TikTok. There are over 150 Million active users and it is most popular with the under 16s.

Recommended age rating:

TikTok states that the app is intended for users age 13 and over. They ask that parents not allow children under 13 to use the app.

How does TikTok work?

Once downloaded, you can see what others have posted, but you need to create an account to share or post. It does ask for a birthdate and rejects anyone under 13 years.

Anyone who previously had a Musical.ly account has access to TikTok. In fact, if anyone updates their musical.ly app, it will be updated to TikTok.

What should parents be concerned about?

- Exposure to inappropriate language, suggestive content and images, self-harm and drug use.
- Contact with strangers / predators.
- Access to personal information.
- Bullying and harassment.
- Use of # (hashtags) can lead to graphic material.

Tips for safe use

- Talk to your child about cyberbullying.
- Make sure their account is set to 'Private'. If videos are posted to 'public' anyone can view, share and comment (and some comments may not be nice).
- Talk to your child about appropriate use (including song choices). View their videos, and regularly check to see who they are following and what is being posted. It is not o.k. to post photos/videos of other students without their knowledge or permission.
- Refer to TikTok's 'Community Guidelines'.
- Turn on TikTok's 'Digital Wellbeing' settings (three dots from top right-hand corner of app). From there you can manage screen time and block inappropriate content.

Unfortunately, although a home app, TikTok has become an issue in the classroom, with teachers regularly dealing with problems arising from students who are using this app at home.

Please help keep our students safe and happy by checking to see if your child is using the app safely. Screen Time (in Settings on devices with IOS 12+) can be used to block the app, restrict access to 12+ rated apps, or limit social media screen time... Please contact us if you need help setting Screen Time Restrictions.

For more TikTok safety information, visit their website: https://www.tiktok.com/en/safety/resources/for-parents

musical.ly   Tik Tok