



# Saint John Wall Catholic School

## A Catholic School For All



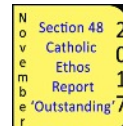
Issue: 13

Friday 17 January 2020

Oxhill Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 8HH • Tel: 0121 554 1825 • [www.sjw.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sjw.bham.sch.uk) • [enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk)



## Weekly Information Bulletin



### Mission Statement

**'To educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'**

### Catholic Life

#### "Journey in the Kingdom Of God"



"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself."

**Luke 10:27**

**Spring Term Theme:** How is this school a family? Love your neighbour as yourself.

**Dear Lord,**

Help me to see the good in myself today. I want to show you how hard I can work, how kind and helpful I can be and how I can spread happiness among those people I spend time with. Thank you for my gifts, I will use them well.

**Amen**

### Important Notice

We have been contacted by the police this morning in relation to a recent spate of robberies that have been happening in and around the Handsworth area where school pupils have been targeted after school hours and have been targeted by young men believed to be school age also.

Please take extra care on your journeys to and from school and we will continue to work in partnership with the police to ensure that pupils are safe on their journeys to and from school.

If any pupils fall victim to any of this please contact the police on 101 or 999 depending on the urgency.

### Important Dates

- **Year 8 and Year 10 Assessment Week**  
Monday 27 January 2020 to Friday 31 January 2020
- **Awards Evening**  
Thursday 13 February 2020 - 5pm to 6pm

### Fixtures/Trips

- Year 7 and 10 Netball vs King Edwards (Home)  
Wednesday 22 January - finish time 4:30pm
- KS3 boys basketball v Handsworth Grammar (Away)  
Thursday 23 January - return time: 6pm
- Year 9 pupils to a Holocaust Memorial Day at the Midlands Art Centre  
Monday 27 January - Return time: 3:10pm
- KS3 boys basketball v Holte (Away)  
Monday 27 January - return time: 6pm
- Year 8 Netball vs Jewellery Quarter (Away)  
Tuesday 28 January - finish time: 4:45pm
- Year 7 Retreat to Alton Castle  
Wednesday 29 January to Friday 31 January - Return time: 3:30pm

### Word of the Week

#### Reinforce

To increase the power of something, or to make an idea or belief stronger.

### Year 10 History Trip National Justice Museum



**Monday 13 July**

**Price: £11**

**Deadline for payment:  
Friday 14 February**



### France Trip 2021

**35  
spaces**



**Cost:  
£250**

Places we will visit:  
WW1 Battlefields  
Disneyland  
Palace of Versailles  
Day visit to Paris including Eiffel Tower  
Sacré Coeur  
River Cruise

**Monday 8 February 2021  
to Friday 12 February 2021**

If you are in Year 7 or 8 and are interested,  
please see Miss Guest for a letter.

Full newsletters will be published on:

Friday 31 January 2020

Friday 28 February 2020

Friday 27 March 2020





TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-synching and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**12+**  
If under 18, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required.



What parents need to know about

# TIKTOK



## MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.

## INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-synching and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.

## TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.

## ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.

## ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.

## IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



## Safety Tips For Parents

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.

### USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.

### ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.

### EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.

### LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

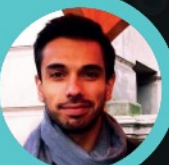
With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.

### MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.

## Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



SOURCES:

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.01.2020