



**Welcome to the Ercall Wood  
Safeguarding Bulletin**

## **Issue 8**

### **Welcome to the second edition of our Autumn Term Safeguarding Bulletin**

**From the Ercall Wood Academy Safeguarding Team. We aim to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on issues that we felt would be of importance to you. We hope you find the safeguarding newsletters insightful!**

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Anti-Bullying Week is coordinated In England and Wales by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and takes place from 15 to 19 November 2021, this year it has the theme One Kind Word. We all want children in our care to be happy and safe and it is natural to worry about bullying, particularly if we think our child is vulnerable. The good news is you are not alone! The Anti-Bullying Alliance works with children, families, and schools to help keep children safe. As parents/ carers, you are a vital piece of the puzzle in tackling bullying. You have a unique role to play in guiding and supporting your child through their school years and there are lots of positive steps you can take to help keep your child safe from bullying and harm. One of the steps is knowing when to ask for support. Kidscape, together with the AntiBullying Alliance, has written an essential toolkit designed to give you information about bullying, tips on what to do if you're worried about bullying and the tools to help you talk to your children about bullying. Click below for the parent toolkit

[For Parents and Carers \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk).

## Online Safety



- The online world is an ever-increasing risk to children and it is important that parents and teachers work together to take an active role in educating children about online dangers. We encourage online safety through our personal development education and PSHE lessons. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an extremely important part of safeguarding our children.

- Since lockdown, we have noticed that our students are spending more time on social media and this is having an impact on their mental health, wellbeing, resilience and the ability to manage their friendships. TikTok and Snapchat are apps that are most prevalent with the negative experiences our students share with us. It is easy to react on social media. It is easy to send messages that may be more harsh than something we would say face to face. Hiding behind a social media identity has made it easier to bully and be unkind.
- Please check in regularly with your child and encourage them to talk to you about their online experience. Please highlight the long term impacts of posting comments online both on themselves and on those about whom they comment. Finally, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need any support in having these conversations. Our website also has links to a number of useful sites which offer support for online safety.

## DISCORD



- New apps and features are released every day that promise to help keep you easily connected to others. One of the most popular online spaces for children and young people to connect is Discord.
- Discord is a free online platform (owned by Amazon) that hosts voice, video, and text chat. It was founded in 2015 by two friends who wanted a better way for gamers to connect with each other whilst on-line gaming. The global COVID-19 pandemic saw an increase in active users for the platform which now sees Discord calling itself a "space for everyone to find belonging." Discord's simple design is especially appealing to children and young people. However, this creates a prime environment for someone with harmful intentions to easily build rapport with a young person based on similar interests. Risks can include sexual exploitation, inappropriate or illegal content, lack of privacy settings and harsh or inappropriate language and bullying. See link below for guidance and advice

The World According to Discord: Your Guide to the Online Chat Platform - [The World According to Discord: Your Guide to the Online](#)

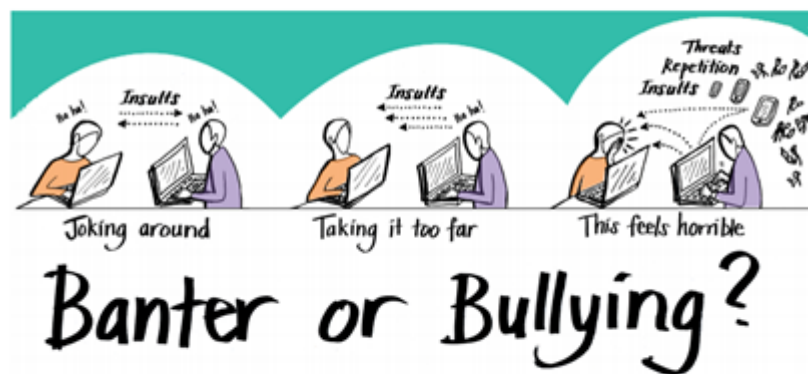


## Tootoot

- At the Learning Community Trust, our aim to ensure that every member of our school community knows that we are committed to supporting their physical health, safety, and emotional wellbeing. We understand the importance of good emotional health and wellbeing to maximize learning and personal development and do all that we can to work with parents to support our students. We have partnered with Tootoot to ensure that, even when not in school, our students are able to seek support from our dedicated pastoral and wellbeing team.
- Tootoot is a safe, secure, and diverse web-based safeguarding tool, which allows students to report wellbeing concerns as well as any bullying issues they may be facing in an anonymous, confidential and discrete manner. These individual cases are monitored, managed, and resolved by staff within the school. Tootoot reduces the friction and stigma attached to the reporting of such incidents, and ultimately provides us with the tools required to track, monitor, and resolve cases efficiently, support wellbeing and reduce instances of bullying.

## Banter

Where do we draw the line between acceptable language and unacceptable language?



Cartoon showing two people joking around, taking it too far and then causing real upset, showing a journey from banter to bullying.

Banter is the playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks.  
(DICTIONARY DEFINITION)

Some questions you could discuss with your children.

- What is banter?
- Can you give me some examples of banter?
- When does banter turn into bullying?
- How do we know if we cross the line?
- How might we know if we have 'crossed a line' with someone?
- How might they be feeling or behaving?
- Do people use the term banter to disguise bullying?

## County Lines

### County Lines

County lines are a network between an urban centre and county location where drugs are sold often over a mobile phone. Children and vulnerable people are used to transport drugs, cash or even weapons. It can involve intimidation, blackmail and serious violence.

- Young people are at risk if they become caught in county lines networks. To reduce the risk to themselves the dealers will use people they think others will not suspect, so any young person on the periphery of drug use or drug taking, or otherwise coming into contact, is vulnerable.
- Sometimes gangs form a secure base in the home of a vulnerable person, forcing assistance through violence or exploiting a drug dependency. Leaders or dealers can enter into relationships with vulnerable young females, which can also lead to sexual exploitation or domestic violence. Young people can have drugs or money stolen and become indebted, needing to continue to supply to pay the money back.
- If you have any suspicions regarding drug taking or the potential for county lines you should contact the police on 101 (or 999 if you feel someone is in imminent danger) and follow your safeguarding children procedures.

## Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Report

### Sexual Violence & Sexual Harassment

Children/young people have always been targeted for sexual abuse and exploitation by adults and by one another. As a society we have sometimes ignored the harm sexual violence and sexual harassment can cause.

All our children/young people have a right to grow up safe from abuse and harassment. Education settings are central to framing a safe ethos and creating safe spaces for children/young people to explore healthy relationships, and there is a duty on settings to ensure they take action to keep children/young people safe. The concern around the level sexual violence and sexual harassment in schools led to the government launching a [review into sexual abuse in schools and colleges](#) at the end of March 2021. This was published in June 2021.

# TIK TOK



## What is Tiktok?

TikTok is an entertainment platform. After downloading the TikTok app, you can start creating your own videos or watch content created by other users.

You can also find trending content by clicking the 'Discover' button. Creating and editing videos is simple, with different effects, filters, and stickers to choose from.

## Age restrictions

TikTok is only for users aged 13 and over, and it actively removes underage accounts. You can report underage users in-app, by emailing [privacy@tiktok.com](mailto:privacy@tiktok.com) or completing an online form [tiktok.com/legal/report/privacy](https://tiktok.com/legal/report/privacy)

Accounts for users **under 16** are set to **Private by Default**. Only someone the user approves can view or comment on their videos, they cannot Direct Message, their accounts are not suggested to others, and their videos cannot be downloaded.

Accounts for users **16–17** have access to a wider range of features, such as Direct Messaging, Livestream, Duet and Stitch. For 16–17s these features have enhanced privacy settings, with many set to 'Off' by default unless the user actively decides to enable it.



# How to stay safe on TikTok?

Choosing to make your account private allows you to approve or deny followers and restrict your uploaded content to followers only. To make your account private:

- Tap on the profile tab
- Go to the **three-dot** menu in the top-right corner
- Tap on **Privacy**
- Then toggle **Private account**

You can keep your identity secure by not including any personal information, such as name, address, phone number or age in your profile.



Users can also manage their experience through the **Digital Wellbeing** tool in their settings, using 'Screen Time Management' and 'Restricted Mode', to limit the type and amount of content viewable.

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## What about parental controls?

The Family Pairing feature allows parents to customize their teen's safety settings based on their individual needs. It allows a parent to link their TikTok account to their teen's and set controls including:

- **Screen Time Management:** Control how long your teen can spend on TikTok each day.
- **Restricted Mode:** Limit the appearance of content that may not be appropriate for them.
- **Direct Messages:** Restrict who can send messages to the connected account, or turn off direct messaging completely.
- **Search:** Decide whether teens are able to proactively search for content

Parents or caregivers that enable Family Pairing receive advice for parents, which are also available on the Guardian's Guide section of TikTok's Safety Centre - [tiktok.com/safety](https://www.tiktok.com/safety)

# How do I report a problem?

If you feel someone is harassing you or otherwise being inappropriate you can report them or a specific video to TikTok's dedicated moderation team in the app. You can also report via the web form - [tiktok.com/legal/report/feedback](https://tiktok.com/legal/report/feedback)

To report a specific user:

- Access the user's profile
- Tap on the three-dot menu in the top-right corner
- An option saying report will come up
- Follow the on-screen instructions

To report a specific video:

- Hold your finger on the video
- Tap report and follow the on-screen instructions

TikTok also works with the Professional Online Safety Helpline (0344 381 4772 or [helpline@saferinternet.org.uk](mailto:helpline@saferinternet.org.uk)), a free and independent helpline for teachers and others working with children in the UK.

If you're a professional working with children and you come across content that you do not think should be on TikTok, in addition to the above methods you can call or email POSH. The POSH team will then report the content directly to TikTok's Trust and Safety to take action.



## Blocking users on TikTok

You can also block a user so they won't be able to view your videos or interact with you through Direct Messages, comments, follows, or likes

- Go to the profile of the account you want to report
- Tap the settings icon
- Tap block and follow the steps in the app

Users can also **bulk report**, delete or block up to 100 comments or accounts at once by long-pressing on a comment or tapping the pencil icon in the upper-left corner to open a window of further options.

## Control your comment section

You have the power to decide whether you want to allow comments on videos from everyone, followers only, or restrict them altogether. Using profile settings you can **filter all comments** to prevent certain keywords, or pre-approve any comment that appears on your video.



## The Ercall Wood academy Safeguarding Team

The Ercall Wood academy Safeguarding Team have been trained to an advanced level on all aspects of safeguarding. The team is available to any student, parent or school staff member to discuss and report any safeguarding concerns.

The team members are:

# SAFEGUARDING TEAM



**Mr Darren Andrews**

**Designated Safeguard Lead — Assistant Principal**



**Ms L Moore**

**Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead**



**Mrs L Kelly**

**Level 2 Safeguarding**  
**Pastoral Lead Year 10**



**Ms K Athawes**

**Level 2 Safeguarding**  
**Vice Principal**



**Mrs J Leese**

**Level 2 Safeguarding**  
**SEND**



Yours sincerely,

**Mr Darren Andrews**

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