

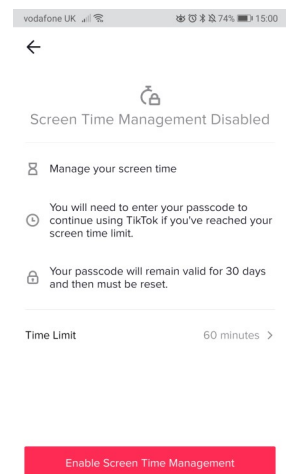
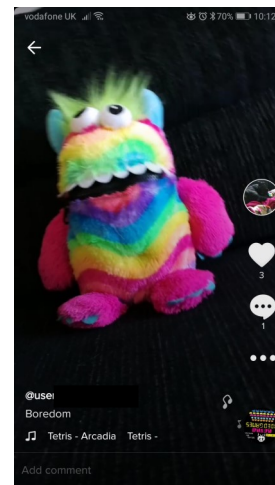
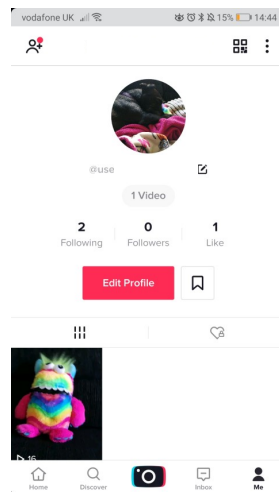
What is Tik Tok?

Tik Tok is an online social network, available for phones and tablets, which will let users share short videos using songs or quotes as background audio. Users can record themselves lip synch, dance or create short funny skits and add visual effects or applying filter before they are shared with their followers on their profile page. It's very popular amongst primary age children and it is estimated there are approximately 500 million users.



You can comment on other user's videos, and they can comment on yours. You can show your appreciation by giving 'Hearts' – similar to 'Liking' on Facebook and Instagram. It also includes a private messaging feature and a Screen Time management option for parents.

Users can Livestream through the app but only if they have over 1000 Followers. When Livestreaming, other users can watch and interact with them by posting comments during the stream, and also being able to send digital gifts which can be purchased through the app for real money.



Do age restrictions apply?

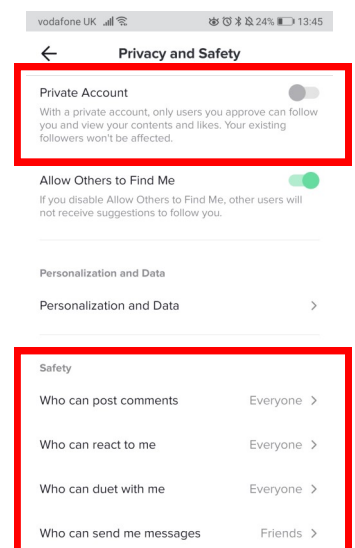
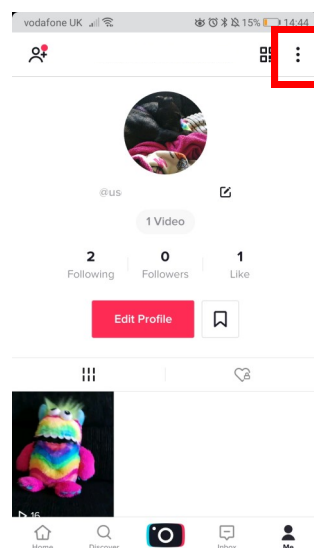
As Tik Tok collects and shares personal information such as pictures, videos and messages, the same rules apply when it comes to age – **you need to be over 13 to create an account**. Tik Tok allows you to report under age users by emailing privacy@tiktok.com

Are there any privacy settings/controls?

When you first create your Tik Tok account, your profile will be **PUBLIC** by default but you can set your account to Private to control who can see what has been posted.

By setting your account to private, other users will need to ask to be a Follower in order to see posts and message you. It's important to note that the app will currently let you change the privacy of a video before it's posted so it's always good to check.

Tik Tok gives you the option to link your profile to other social networks like YouTube and Instagram so you can share your videos through those apps and for other users to access them. Tik Tok privacy settings will not apply so make sure other accounts are Private too.



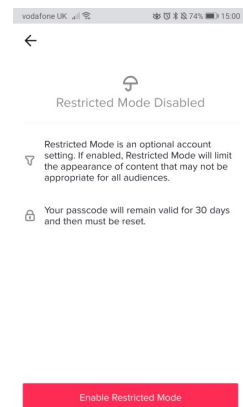
Things to think about

Share Aware

Always make sure your children understand who can see their posts online and follow the some simple rules for keeping personal information safe. Make sure that they get changed out of their school uniform before recording any video and think about what information they are giving away - even accidentally on the walk home from school.

Private accounts can make sharing videos safer, which can help them enjoy their time online more as they know only their real friends can see it. Stopping other users from messaging them can also limit who can contact them through the app. They may feel pressure to add as many people as possible (to get to 1000 Followers to allow Live Streaming) but it's important to encourage them to only add people that they know.

Not everything is appropriate



Some of the criticism around Tik Tok is that some of the song lyrics are not appropriate for children, many feature explicit lyrics, offensive words and can sometimes be of a sexual nature. There have also been concerns over the type of content that others have posted. Although Tik Tok has rules against pornography and other graphic content, they do not check videos before they are uploaded and as a result, some children have seen highly inappropriate pictures and videos shared by adults. Videos can be reported to Tik Tok through the app but the app also has a Restricted Mode which will limit content that may not be appropriate for all audiences and can be locked with a passcode.

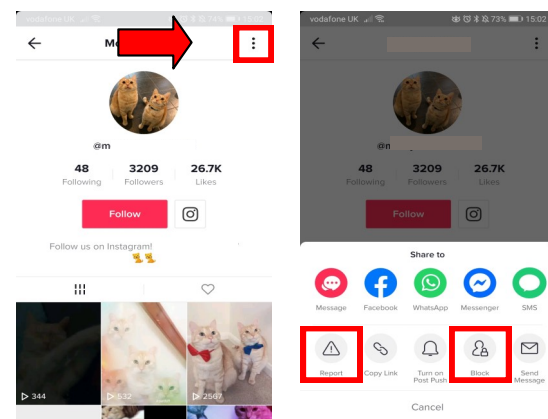
It's a social network app

Tik Tok is designed to share your information with as many people as they can, but we are still in control of who can see it and who connects with us. This means that if you don't want someone to see your content, or they have sent abusive or inappropriate messages they can be blocked. Make sure that all users know how to block before they start using the app, that way they will know what to do to stay safe if anything happens.

Want to learn more?

Tik Tok Safety:
<https://www.tiktok.com/safety>

Online Safety support and guidance for parents :
<https://parentinfo.org/>



If you have concerns about the immediate safety of a child, you can call Lincolnshire Police on 101 or, in an emergency, dial 999

You can also call Children's Services Customer Service Centre to report your concerns on 01522 782111, if there is no immediate danger