



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

OUR SCHOOL VALUES: RESPECT - UNDERSTANDING – PEACE – HONESTY – RESPONSIBILITY - TEAMWORK

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Dear Parents

We have been contacted recently by a parent of a Year 6 child who was concerned at the negative and upsetting comments being posted online in the video app 'Tiktok'.

Mrs Kretschmer, as Computing Subject Leader, investigated further and discovered that a number of our current Year 6 children have accounts. The parental advice of Tik Tok is that the app is for age 13 and over and they have given the app 'a strict 12+ app store rating' which allows parents to 'use the device-parental controls to simply block the app from your underage child's phone'.

Several of the children have public accounts which allow **any** app user access to the digital media. This is very concerning as it means that photos and videos etc. can therefore be downloaded by **anyone** onto their phone. From the videos, Mrs Kretschmer knew which school the children attend, as they were wearing school uniform. This is obviously concerning as it makes it easier for the children to be identified by strangers, putting them at risk.

If you make a parental decision to go against the advice and allow your child access to this app, please could I recommend that **at the very least the account is made private**, only allowing known friends and family access, and to closely monitor what is being shared.

This link gives further information about Tik Tok and how to make the account private.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok-everything-you-need-know-about-video-production-app>

Thank you very much for your support and helping us to keep all the children safe online.

Kind regards

Mrs R Phillips
Headteacher