

Our Ref: Safeguarding/LFo

15th December 2022

Dear Parent/ Guardian

## Re: TikTok Safety

We have been made aware that a number of TikTok challenges are being undertaken by children across Northamptonshire – Please find attached a Parent Guide, created by National Online Safety, that we hope you will find informative and useful.

We would, as always, recommend being vigilant around what your children (and their friends) might be accessing online; talk with them and engage with them whilst they're online. When talking to your children avoid naming upsetting challenges, hoaxes or scary online content. The Education People have produced some good guidance.

Encourage your children not to share challenges online and to

**Stop** – what they're doing online if they access something that frightens or worries them/you. Encourage your child to close the device down and/or put the device to one side and to tell you immediately.

**Think** – Reassure your child not to overthink what they have seen; especially if the hoax or challenge is violent – tell them they are safe and what they have seen is not going to harm *them*.

**Talk** – Encourage your children to talk about what they have seen online with you or a trusted adult and, ideally, not to share what they have seen with friends or in WhatsApp/Snapchat.

Have open conversations with your children around peer pressure, especially online. Young people can often be drawn into viewing/sharing unsuitable content online because friends are doing it, or say they are! Saying 'no' can be a difficult thing to do – at any age.

For more information around online safety, you can email onlinesafety@northamptonshire.gov.uk.

As always - If you have any concerns about your child's (or another's) use of social media please don't hesitate to contact us.

Please ensure your children know that they can speak to any member of staff in school if they are concerned about any activity on social media – Anything reported to us will be addressed with the utmost importance and discretion.

Yours faithfully,

Mr L Martin

Designated Officer for Safeguarding & Child Protection

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