



Bristol Free School
Concorde Drive
Bristol BS10 6NJ

Tel: 0117 959 7200
admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk
www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S. King

18 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to ask for your support in dealing with a disturbing national trend where some individuals are creating Tik Tok accounts in a school's name and then posting inappropriate videos, pictures and messages relating to the school, school students and school staff. Some links below will give you a sense of the scale of the issue.

Students actively involved in doing this will of course face school-based consequences but some of the posts for some schools are defamatory and in some cases may result in police or civil action too. This behaviour is totally unacceptable and we shall take action in line with the school behaviour policy and involve the police if we believe that a criminal act has taken place. Such acts include trolling (sending abusive and hurtful comments), online harassment, and virtual mobbing (when a number of individuals use social media or messaging to make comments to or about another individual).

Even if not the owner of the account, the risk to your child is that they get caught up in this activity and like posts or add comments which could also result in school or police action.

Please check whether your child has a Tik Tok account and whether they have created, followed, liked or commented on any such page.

As the articles below make clear, suspension or exclusion may be appropriate and in some cases there could be criminal or civil prosecutions.

Please also reinforce with your child the importance of knowing that once a post or a message has been uploaded, the child no longer has any control over it – even if they delete it, others may already have taken a screenshot and can repost it. In the interests of safety for all children, it is important that they do not send messages or images that they would not want the headteacher or their parents to see. In school, if we have reason to believe there may be inappropriate or offensive material on a phone then we will check and children should know that you will too.

This would be a good opportunity for you to engage with your child about their social media use. These are not easy conversations to have but this might help you insist, gently or firmly, that you can look at the phone and will from time to time. Here is a resource <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/phones> to give you some more guidance about this and attached is more information about Tik Tok.

I want to make sure that both staff and students at the school are kept safe and protected from any form of online abuse and am grateful for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S King
Headteacher

<https://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/19702476.bogus-school-tiktok-accounts-make-derogatory-comments-teachers/>

<https://www.northwalespioneer.co.uk/news/19703587.children-filming-tiktok-videos-conwy-denbighshire-schools-excluded/>

<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/parents-warned-police-could-called-22111205>

<https://www.doncasterfreepress.co.uk/education/parents-asked-to-check-their-childrens-phones-after-offensive-videos-circulate-around-a-doncaster-school-3451277>