

Online Safety Newsletter

Merrylands



Live streaming on TikTok and other platforms

There is a facility on TikTok whereby 1000 followers enables a person to be able to broadcast live.

Any person with a TikTok or similar platform account can use live streaming. Many children and young people do this, for example to sing and dance and to talk about things, perhaps with the aim of attracting more viewers and to be someone who is 'trending' online.

This type of activity is popular among children and young people, including primary school children, and can be beneficial. For example broadcasting live may help to develop a person's creativity and improve their confidence, enable them to speak about something that matters to them on a wider platform, or perhaps as an additional way to stay in touch with friends.

Concerns

There are risks for children and young people associated with broadcasting live online, and in engaging with other people's broadcasts, including:

viewing inappropriate content (such as sexual or violent videos);

communicating with people that are unknown to them;

children and young people may be broadcasting from their bedroom, unsupervised – making an additional forum in which abuse may take place;

there could be thousands of people watching a live stream at any time, including those who are looking to harm children and young people – it is possible to move a child or young person from a live stream to a private one;

coercion or manipulation to create and share indecent images of themselves while live streaming;

live videos can be recorded and shared.

If your child uses platforms such as Tik Tok then talking to them about the risk of seeing something that worries or upsets them is really important. They need to know that it is not their fault and they can talk to an adult about what they have seen.

See the link below for help with parental controls

<https://www.connectsafely.org/tiktok/#:-:text=Follow%20these%20steps%3A,between%2040%20and%20120%20minutes.>

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SCARY CHALLENGES ONLINE

What parents and schools need to know to keep children safe from the latest dares, scares, threats & challenges

There are always stories going round about nasty things online and you may be asked to share warnings about them. The ones with clever names and funny pictures are usually fakes and hoaxes, but of course bad things happen online too and we all want to keep young people safe from them.

Whether a scare is real or not, we would advise against sharing warnings about specific challenges or even 'bad apps', sites or games. Read on to find out why...and what to do instead.

Insert scary picture here. Is that a good idea?



Why shouldn't we share specific warnings?

Scare-shares can cause:

1. A false sense of security
2. Free publicity
3. Unproductive panic

What can we do instead?

Top tips



1. Talk about **GENERAL** risks and what can go wrong online wherever you are
2. Use **NON-SCARY EXAMPLES** to talk about how to respond to dares, challenges, scares and threats
3. Make sure children and young people know who to talk to and where to get **HELP** from different sources
4. Focus on the **POSITIVES** - after all, if we say it's all bad, they won't listen to us

Still not sure? Have a look at what the experts at CEOP say about online scares or how the Samaritans advise us to talk about challenges.

NOT A GOOD IDEA



DigiSafe
keeping children safe



Find out more at scare.lgfl.net

& @LGfLDigiSafe