



The Manor
Preparatory School

To Parents of Children in Years 3 to 6

Friday 1 May 2020

Dear Parents

TikTok and Zoom

It has come to our attention that some children are now communicating with each other via the social media platform, TikTok, and the video communication platform, Zoom.

When the children are using any websites or apps, we continue to advise that you remind them of our online safety advice that if they see or hear anything that makes them feel uncomfortable, they should tell a trusted adult immediately for help and support in talking about this and reporting the content. Please also continue to reinforce the message with your children that they should not share personal information like their name, phone number and address online. Children at The Manor are too young to meet the minimum age requirements of the majority of social media platforms and we do not endorse the use of TikTok or Zoom, especially without parental supervision. We advise the children at school that nothing posted to the internet can ever really be deleted so they should always think carefully about what they post.

If your child is using either of these platforms, please be advised of the following guidelines:

TIKTOK

TikTok lets you create, share and view 60 second videos. Users can use music and effects to enhance their videos and can also browse other people's videos and interact with them. TikTok users sign up with a phone number, an email address, Facebook, or Instagram. Once logged in, you can search popular creators, categories (comedy, animals, sports), and hashtags to find videos.

TikTok has a minimum age requirement of 13+ and The Manor does not endorse use of the platform.

Because of TikTok's emphasis on popular music, many videos include swearing and sexual lyrics, so it cannot be guaranteed that it is safe for children to use on their own. It is also easy to find people wearing revealing clothing and dancing suggestively, although TikTok won't let you search for explicit material.

If you are aware that your child is using TikTok, our advice is for them to delete this account in line with our online safety teaching on social media, privacy and age restrictions. If you allow your child to continue to use TikTok, please be aware that:

- You should make sure to turn on all privacy settings on accounts children are using so that only people known to them can interact with their videos and message them. This means either opting for a private account or changing the settings for comments, duets, reactions and messages to "Friends" instead of "Everyone." You can also turn these features off completely.

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- **Any use of TikTok at this age should be through a trusted adult's account and always be supervised by a trusted adult.**
- There is a separate section of the app for children that only allows them to access curated, clean videos. They can't comment, search or post their own videos. Bypassing this section only requires entering a false birthdate.

How to make a TikTok account private:

To make a TikTok account private, go to your profile page and select the three-dot icon in the top-right corner. Select "Privacy and Safety". There, toggle the switch for "Private Account." You can also select who can send you comments and direct messages, and who can do a duet with you. Using the "Friends" setting or turning those features off completely limits contact with strangers.

For more information about the safety and privacy of TikTok, we recommend the following parent guides:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/tiktok/>

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok>

ZOOM

Zoom is a video-chatting tool similar to Skype or Google Meet. You can use almost any device to download Zoom, including a phone.

As with TikTok, parents should be aware of the age restrictions, as listed on Zoom's website:

'Zoom is not intended for use by individuals under the age of 16, unless it is through a School Subscriber.'

As with TikTok, The Manor does not endorse use of Zoom for children unless it is with adult supervision.

If you allow your child to continue using Zoom, please be aware of the following information:

- **All calls should be supervised by a trusted adult.**
- Children should continue to follow our Manor Values when on video calls to ensure that they are treating each other with respect at all times. If they feel that they have seen or heard something unkind or inappropriate, they should report this to an adult immediately for support and guidance on what to do next.
- Zoom has a chat messaging feature which parents should be aware of and this should also be monitored for appropriate use of language and behaviour.
- Zoom lets you share what's on your screen with the people you're chatting to, which means your child could be shown something inappropriate.
- Zoom also lets hosts record meetings, so it's important to talk to your child about what they're sharing while chatting. Remind them not to share personal information, like their name and phone number, or private parts of their body.

For more information about Zoom, we recommend the following sites:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-zoom>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/zoom/>

<https://zoom.us/terms>

If your child has been given permission to use TikTok or Zoom or has a phone, please ensure that none of these are being accessed during lesson time. If your child has a phone, this should be out of reach in another area of the house when they are learning.

If you ever have any concerns around your child's online safety, please do not hesitate to contact me on vfootring@manorprep.org or 01235 858480 (Deputy Head Office) / 07741 660113 (School mobile).

Best wishes

Mr Varun Footring
Deputy Head Pastoral