



11/02/25

St. Mary's PS,
Rathlin Island,
Ballycastle,
BT54 6RT,
County Antrim.

RE: Internet safety Day 2025 and TikTok Awareness

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today was Internet safety Day 2025 and in school we have been considering how to stay safe online. We are all committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, both in school and at home while online. This week, we have had conversations with our pupils and some have been around the use of Tiktok- it is essential for families to be aware of the potential risks and take steps to support children in using the internet safely.

Understanding TikTok:

TikTok is a widely used social media platform that allows users to create and share short videos. While it can be a fun and creative outlet, it also presents risks, particularly for younger children, such as exposure to inappropriate content, online predators, cyberbullying, and privacy concerns.

Our Recommendations for Safer Internet Use:

1. **Age Restrictions:** TikTok requires users to be at least **13 years old** to create an account. We strongly encourage parents to monitor their children's online activity and ensure they are using age-appropriate platforms.
2. **Privacy Settings:** If your child is using TikTok, set their account to 'Private' to restrict who can view their content and interact with them.
3. **Parental Controls:** TikTok offers 'Family Pairing,' which allows parents to link their account with their child's to manage screen time, direct messages, and content restrictions.
4. **Online Safety Discussions:** Have regular conversations with your child about responsible internet use, including not sharing personal information, recognizing inappropriate content, and knowing how to report or block harmful users.
5. **Screen Time Management:** Encourage a healthy balance between online and offline activities by setting limits on screen time and promoting other recreational activities.

A detailed information sheet published by the EA is available on the school website.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our children's safety online.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. McGuigan".

Mr. E McGuigan

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