

Tuesday 1st December 2020

Dear Parents,

Harmful content on TikTok

We have been made aware of highly harmful content on TikTok and we are sharing this update with all parents. The content is called 'Megan is Missing'. This is a 2011 film and it is being discussed on social media and shared on YouTube. Its content has been available for a while, but has made a revival on TikTok, and is appearing on people's 'For You Pages' (this is where users get content on TikTok).

It depicts the online grooming and serious assault and rape of a 14-year-old high school student. This is a fictional film but was based on real life abduction cases and contains graphic scenes of a sexual and violent nature.

TikTok users are posting videos of their reactions to the film, as well as taking part in an online challenge, in which they see how long they can last while watching the most disturbing scenes.

Traffic is driven to the film by clickbait comments such as 'DONT WATCH THIS'. This tactic could unfortunately pique the curiosity of younger users.

The complete video is currently also available on YouTube.

Whilst it is unlikely that your child will have seen this content, our advice is to check in with them. Please do have an open conversation but avoid directly mentioning this video/content by name. Suggest that you have heard there is some disturbing content being circulated in an online challenge and ask if they have heard of anything like that? This is the best way to open an indirect conversation that enables your child to talk to you about any concerns without encouraging them or their friends to seek out the actual content.

If you have any further concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or Head of Year.

We have included a checklist which holds information on how to help keep your child keep their TikTok profile under safe.

Your Sincerely

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Assistant Principal (Inclusion) and Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Every Student a Graduate – Every Student a Leader

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