



At the beginning of 2019, TikTok rocketed in popularity with a billion downloads to date. It is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat.

TikTok's main appeal, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers.

TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. **It has an age restriction of 12+ with parental supervision required for all users who are under 18.**

While this social media platform can bring users great entertainment, it is not without its risks:

- a number of videos have been reported to contain drug and alcohol abuse as well as teenagers engaging in sexually suggestive content
 - music to accompany the videos can contain explicit and suggestive lyrics

- along with other social media apps, TikTok can be highly addictive and make it difficult for users to step away from

Panorama have investigated how safe this social media platform is for the millions of young people who are using it every day. This 30 minute programme will support parents' understanding of the potential risks and dangers of TikTok.

Follow the link below to watch:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000p3p9/panorama-is-tiktok-safe>

If you have any questions about TikTok or would like additional support with this, or any other, online platform, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or the school office.