

Parents/Carers of Pupils in
All Schools

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If calling, please ask for
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Our Ref: **AM/MM**
Your Ref:
Date: **23 November 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer

MISUSE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING APPLICATION - TIK TOK

The use of digital technology has changed the way we live our lives, particularly throughout the pandemic. Dundee City Council has received Scottish Government funding to ensure that young people have access to their own digital device and we recognise the importance of responsible digital learning.

You may have heard reports in the media about young people mis-using TikTok, a video-focused social networking service which allows users to post short videos, in the hope of gaining significant numbers of likes and followers.

There have been a few reported instances of this in our schools, with videos which include images of school staff taken from online sources or even recorded in school, alongside statements which could cause reputational damage.

I would ask for your support in discussing this issue with your young person, so that they understand fully that posting unfounded anonymous claims about any adult in school does not only cause anxiety and harm, but may also involve police action and even the pursuit of civil action by the individuals targeted.

Our school staff work hard to instil responsible digital citizenship and safe use of internet resources in young people, so that they are fully aware of the potential consequences of mis-using social media. Many employers, universities and colleges look at potential applicants' online activity as part of their selection process and I seek your support in working in partnership with your child's school, to ensure that they conduct themselves responsibly online.

Yours sincerely



AUDREY MAY
Head of Service (Chief Education Officer)

