



# safe on social

## Top Safety Tips for TikTok



[www.safeonsocial.com](http://www.safeonsocial.com)

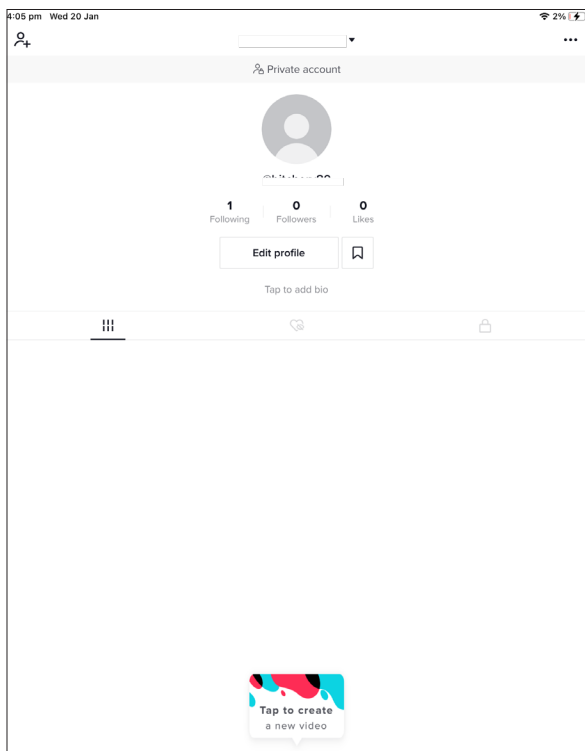
### Top Safety Tips for TikTok

For users over 18.

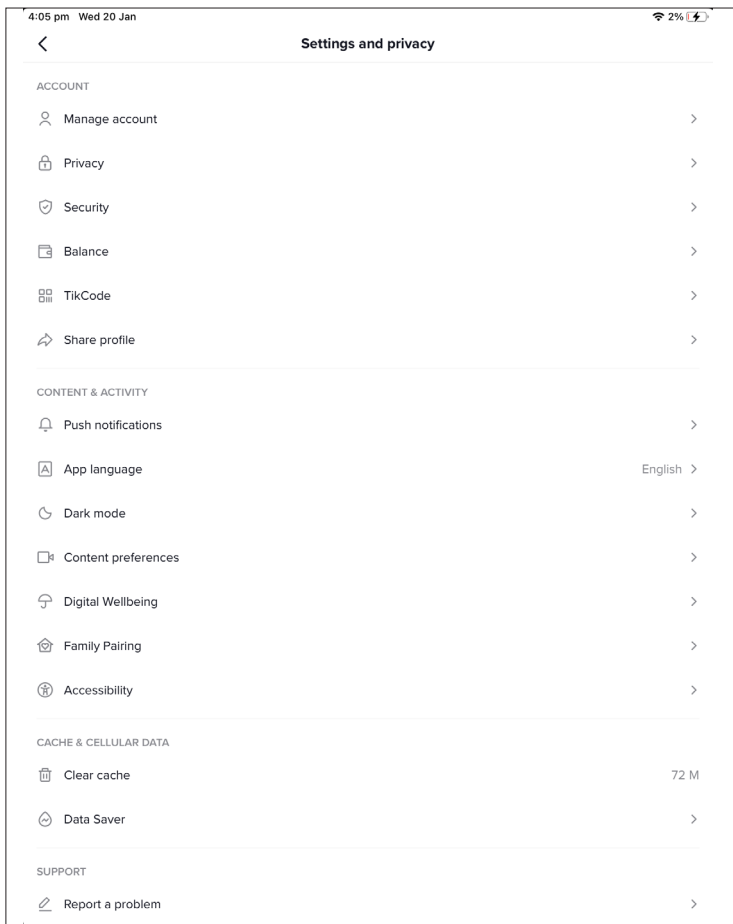
#### 1. Authenticate your account and add a password

When signing up, the option is given to authenticate your account with either a verification text sent to your mobile phone or by using your email.

To add a password, the account will require being authenticated again with the sending of a text message. Ensure the password used is a strong one, with a mix of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols. Do not share this password.

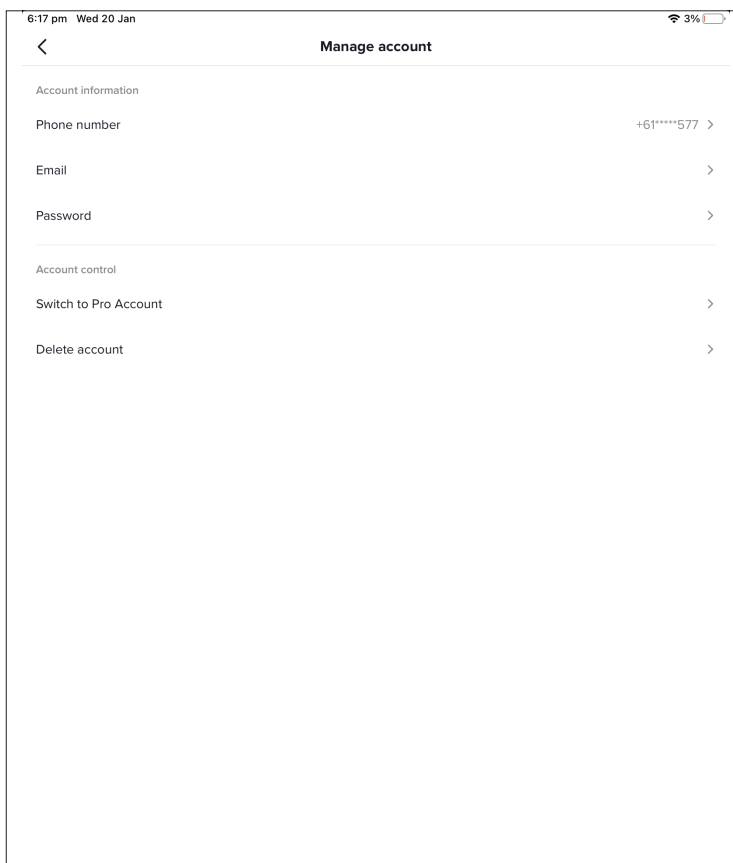


Use the ellipse in the top right corner to control your account options.



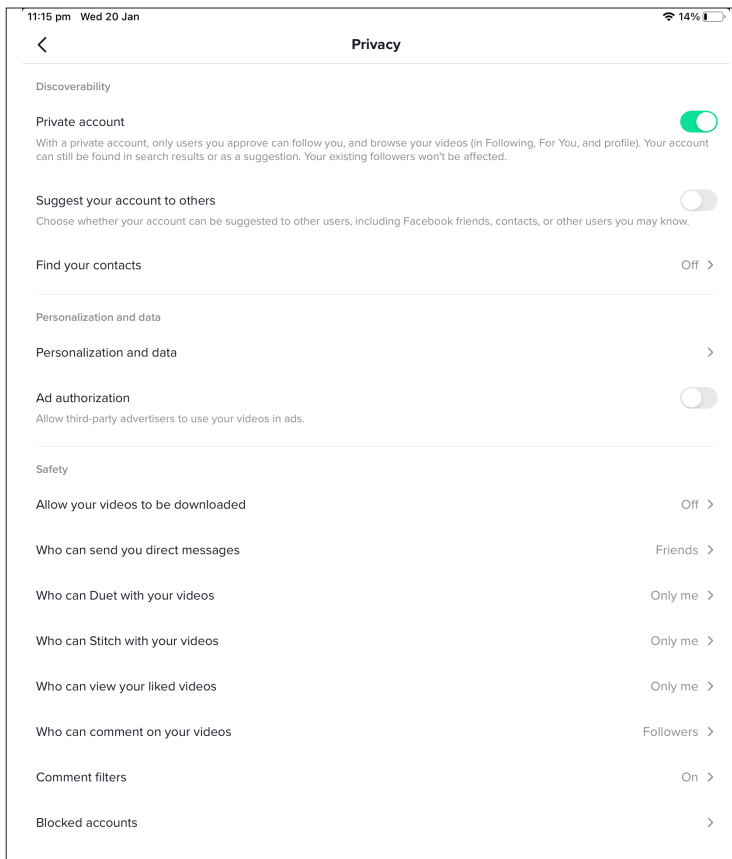
This setting and privacy section holds all options necessary.

Choose the Manage Account option to authenticate your account and add a password.



## 2. Consider a Private account

TikTok can be a chaotic place. To protect yourself and exercise controls over your followers and who views your content make your account private.



Switch on the private account option.

## 3. Be careful of what you choose to post.

TikTok is notorious for content being spliced into other video, deep fakes, and other forms of online bullying. Post risqué content, show revealing personal information and you place yourself both at risk of becoming the latest viral meme, or disclosing personal information that is likely to spread to a wider audience than you may intend.

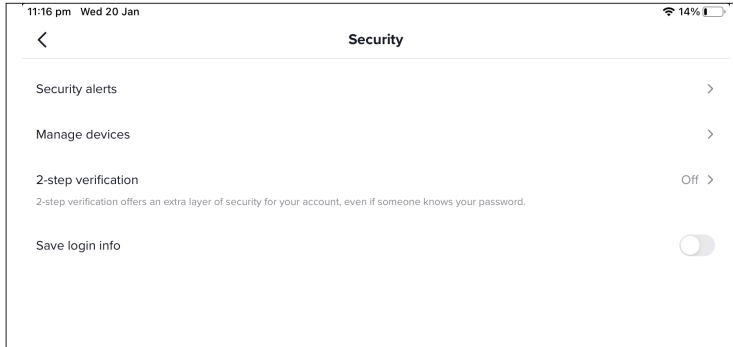
## 4. You have a digital footprint

The internet has a very long memory. While posting imagery of yourself making racist commentary, using foul language, wearing minimal clothing, behaving in an overtly sexualised manner, and other potential offensive behaviour may seem like a good idea at the time, consider your future. Employers can and do search online histories. Be sensible, or keep your account private.

## 5. Monitor device access / enable security alerts

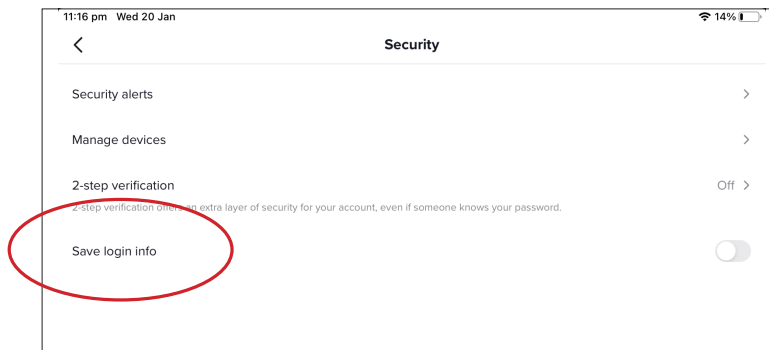
Enabling the security feature called security alerts, will ensure that you are alerted when your account displays any suspicious account action.

This section of the app also provides notification when you are accessing your account from multiple devices, and allows you to log out from these remotely by using the Remove tab.



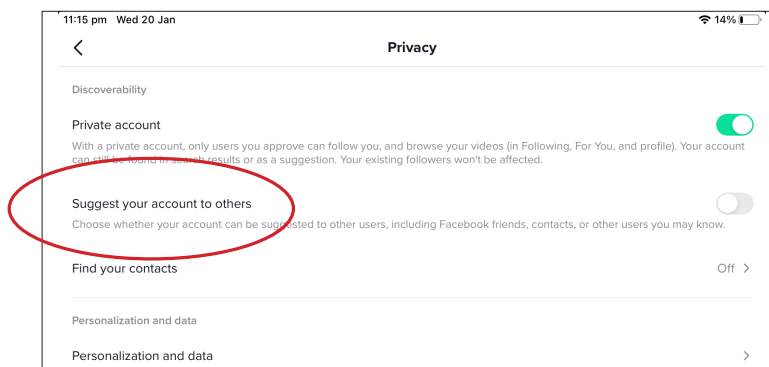
## 6. Deselect save log in option

When the save log in feature is enabled, this means that if any one else is using your phone or device they may access your TikTok account without the need to log in, or a password. To protect your account from possible malicious use by another individual toggle this switch to the off position.



## 7. Discoverability - suggesting your account to others

If your account is public, and you have enabled TikTok to recommend your account you have no control over whom your feed is suggested to as potential followers. If keeping an element of privacy to your TikTok is important to you, and you wish to vet where your content goes, turn off the "Suggest your account others function"



## 8. Do not log in to TikTok from other social media accounts

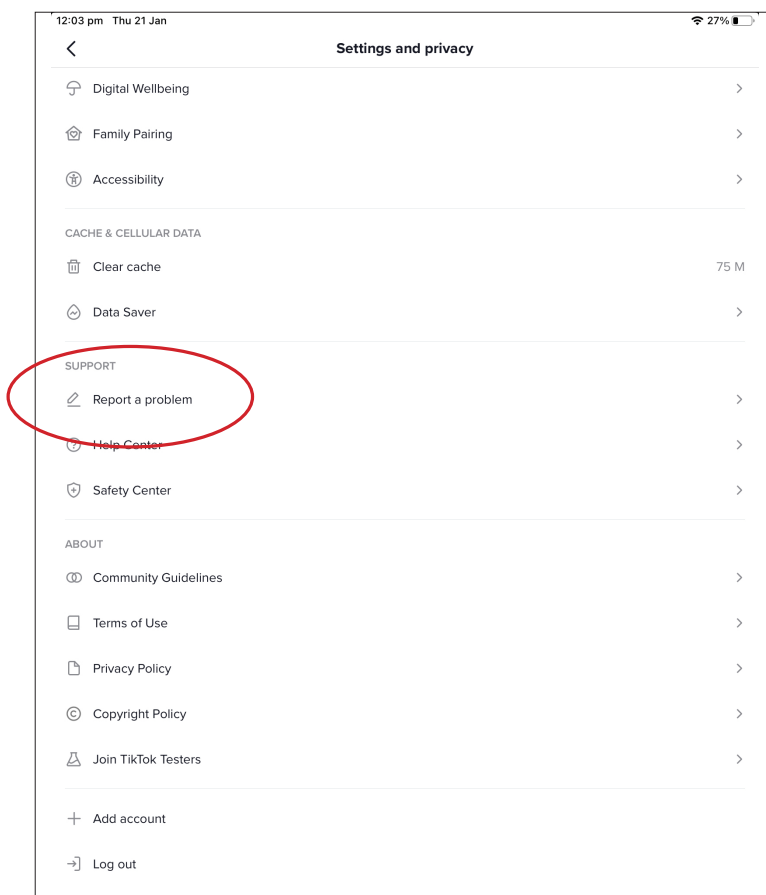
By doing this, you are supplying apps and third-party providers associated with it with additional personal data points, contacts, personal information. You alter your authorisation for use of your data and allow usage for different purpose to those specified by the original app, you are more easily profiled, and if you lose control of a social media account via identity theft you risk the loss of control of other social media services linked to the account.

While it is often the easier option to access account through other social media, logging in and logging out of social media services separately is the safest choice.

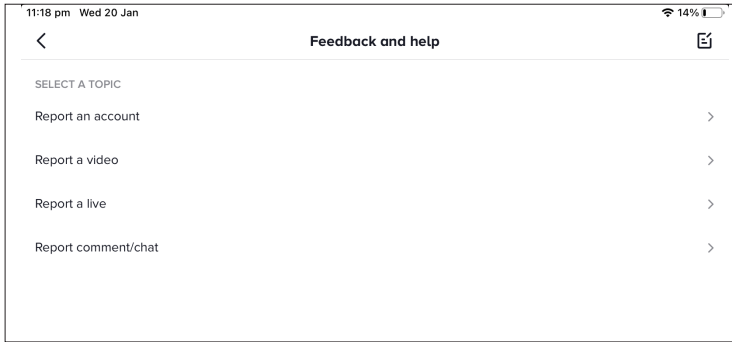
## 9. Learn how to block and report

With a public account, and discoverable content it is likely not all messages and feedback will be positive. Four options are available to an account holder.

Using the Feedback and help section in the app itself. This is located in the settings and privacy section.



Choose report a problem, and follow the step by step instructions.



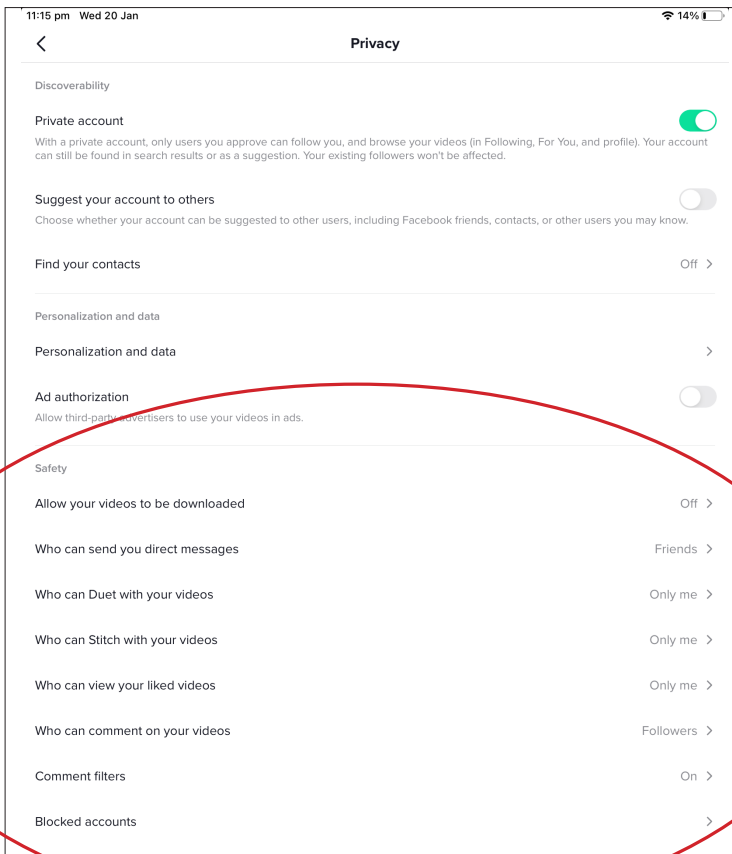
Blocking users on a case by case basis. The link below indicates how to do this.

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/using-tiktok/followers-and-following/blocking-the-users>

To report content, messages, comments, users or video( live or saved), TikTok provides this link. Contained within are step by step instructions on how to report each different activity.

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem>

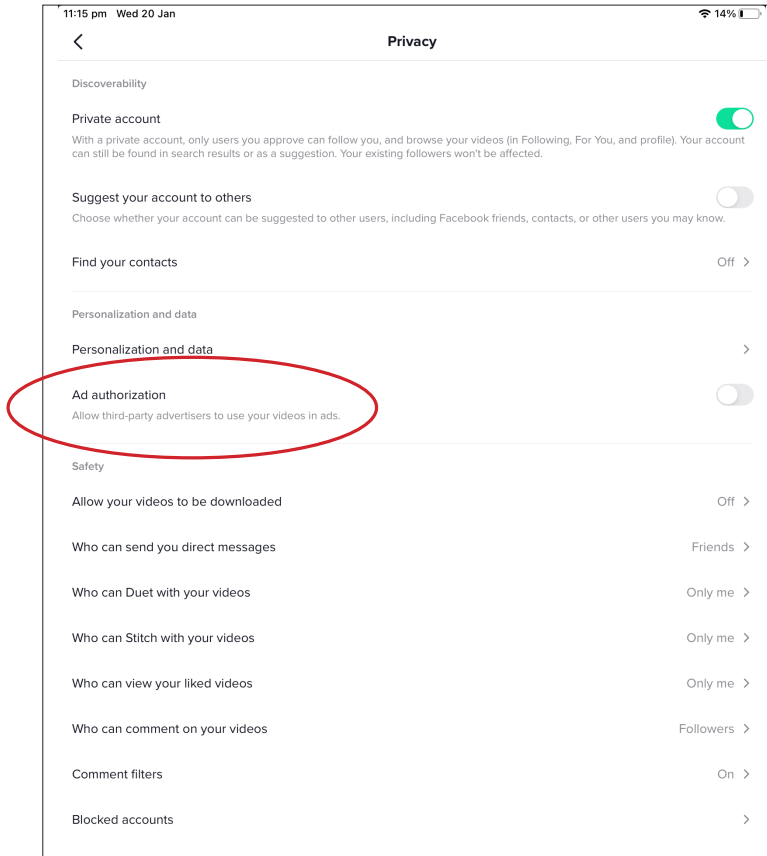
Or you may choose to review the Privacy options TikTok provides and limit who may send you direct messages, comments, duets, and who may view your content- thus severely limiting the chance of negative interactions.



## 10. Turn off ad authorisation.

If this option is not switched off, third-party advertisers who are affiliated with TikTok can use your content in their advertisements.

This is part of the terms and condition you accept when signing up to TikTok, and this may happen without you necessarily being aware of it.



Toggle this switch to the OFF position.

## For parents of users under 18.

### 1. It is vital that all parents check that their child has entered the correct DOB when creating an account.

New security provision noted in Point 2 WILL NOT come into play if you child has lied about their age. Changing and checking this is NOT simple.

It is vital that all parents check that their child has entered the correct DOB when creating an account. New security provision for u16s that have been recently released by the app, will not function if your child has lied about their age.

Changing and checking this is not simple.

In January 2021, TikTok has advised that errors in entry for dates of birth may only be altered in the following way.

The account holder or parent must request a privacy report.

<https://www.tiktok.com/legal/report/privacy>

Enter in the applicable account information.

Choose the Request information about account data option, listed under the What is your request subheading. Where you are asked to provide details, submit an explanation that the accounts date of birth is incorrect, and advise that proof of age can be provide.

Then, and this is problematic- the app requires proof of identification. And this must be some form of official identification.

This cannot be advised or recommended.

Parents are left with two main options.

Family pairing or requiring their child to delete their account and start again truthfully.

The latter is liable to be very difficult, and likely to cause conflict with your child.

Family pairing will provide a parent with sufficient controls over the teens account to replicate most of TikToks new security features for younger users..

## **2. Check the app has updated with new security features.**

In the past week TikTok has initiated a raft of new features that apply to users under 16.

These include -

- Default setting to a private account removing your child's choice between a public or private account.
- A private account gives a child power to approve or deny followers or friends access. ( This is not the case with a public account where all may follow)
- Only followers your child approves may view their content. This changes from public account allowing anyone to view content via the For You page feature.
- All accounts for under 16's are blocked from sending and receiving direct messages. This applies to individuals who are also approved followers.
- Accounts belonging to under 16's will no longer be suggested as accounts to follow.
- The duet/stitch feature is no longer an option for under 16's.
- The ability to save and download videos has been removed

Combined, these features are a serious attempt to improve the privacy and safety of younger users of the app.



### **3. Abide by the age restrictions**

The recommended age for a TikTok account is 13+.

This is there due to the nature of the content posted on the app by older users.

Sexual references, graphic violence, language warnings can all appear within the app. If your child wishes to or has created an account, please ensure you supervise this and or ensure the correct birth date is used.

TikTok has reported utilising facial recognition to identify illicit underage accounts but this is not necessarily a guarantee of protection for your child. Do not rely on this.

### **4. Use Family Pairing.**

This is a feature that requires a parent to also have a TikTok account, and provides an additional layer of protection.

It allows parents to be more involved in manage their child's digital wellbeing on this app.

Parents may manage the time spent on TikTok, limit individuals who may message their child, restrict content, determine whether an account remains private post a child turning 16, control who may like a child's videos, control who comments on your child videos and who may view their content, and determine if your child's account maybe recommended to others.

This feature was introduced in late 2020 and covered by Safe on Social here.

### **5. Discuss privacy**

Explain clearly to your child that it is necessary to keep personal information offline. This includes explaining the need not to film content in school uniform, in public locations they regularly attend which may be identified, what is visible in the background of the content, providing their home locations, full names and any identifying family details.

### **6. Discuss online stranger danger.**

People are not always who they purport to be online. Advise them against accepting follower requests from individuals they do not know in real life. This conversation should include always refusing to meet anyone they have only met online. If age appropriate address online predators and the real risk these individuals pose.

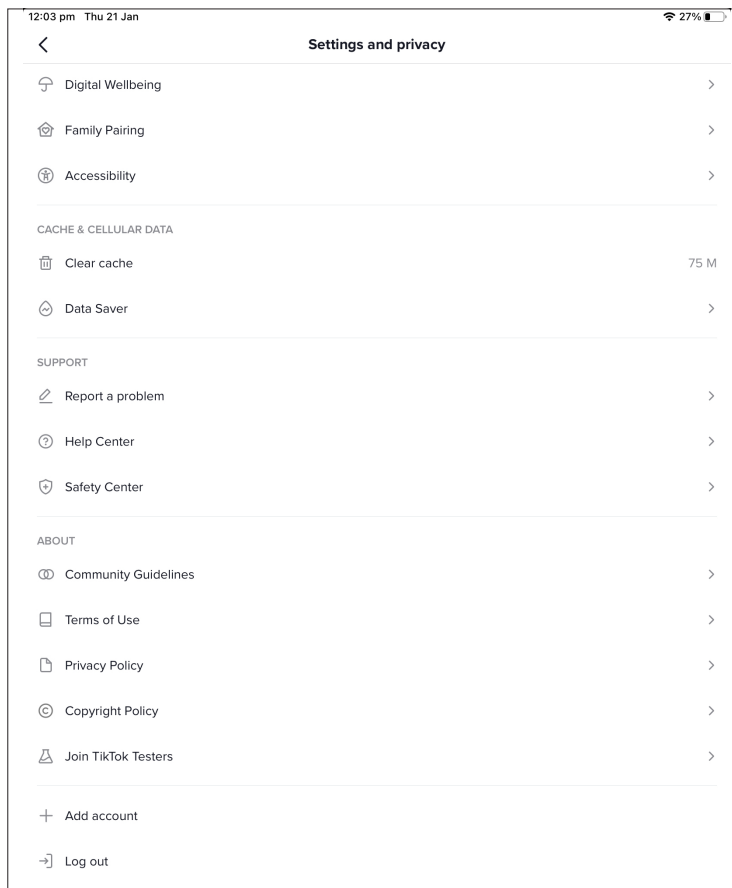
### **7. Block and Report**

Together, work through how to block and report any online bullies on the app. Learn how to do this yourself,

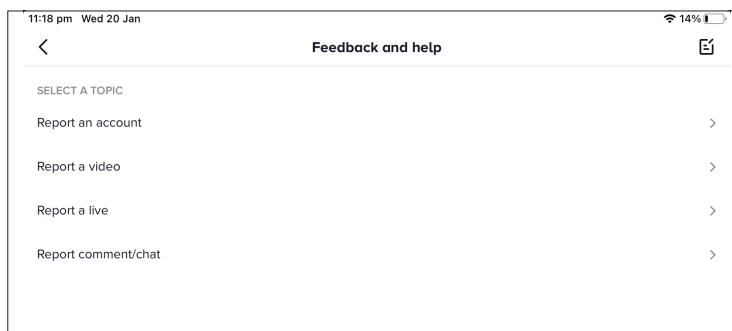
and ensure your child is capable of replicating this action. Alternatively, ask your child to show you how to do this.

With a public account, and discoverable content it is likely not all messages and feedback will be positive. For teens under 16 this should be less of a concern post TikTok's recent update.

For parents with older teens, who wish to make an account public shown below are multiple methods to protect themselves, and act when necessary.



Four options are available to an account holder.



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Blocking users on a case by case basis.

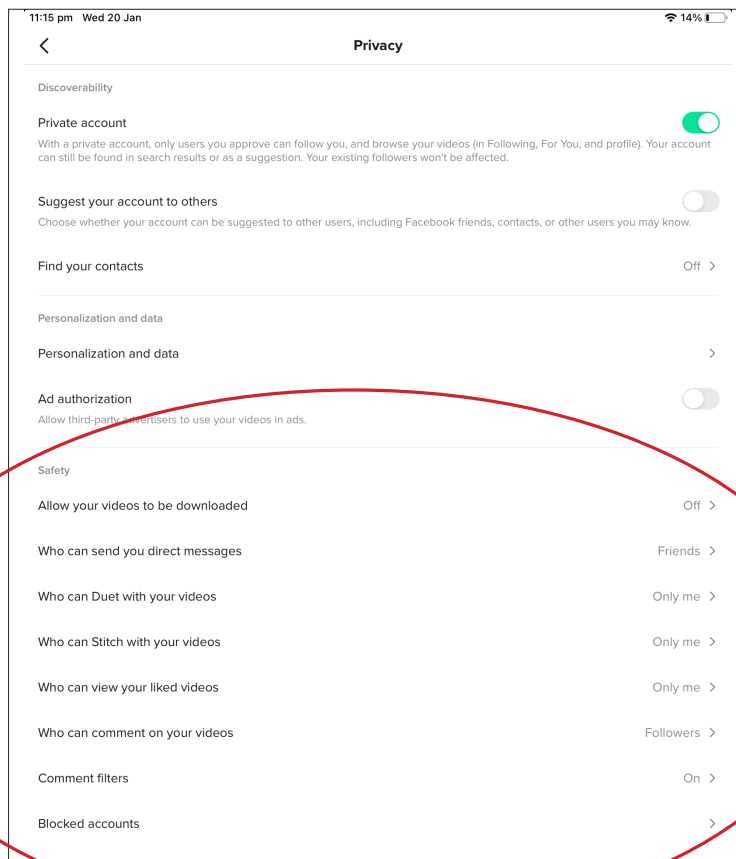
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