

# Online Safety News

February 2025

## What is RedNote?

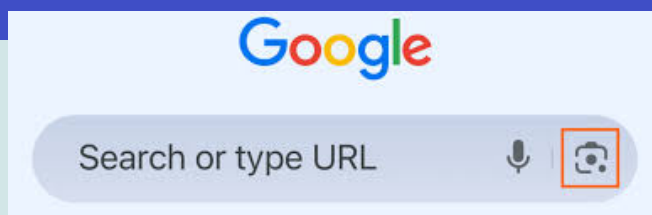
RedNote is a social media app similar to TikTok, is gaining popularity among young users following the recent ban on TikTok imposed in the United States. But it comes with safety concerns.

- The app collects extensive user data, which may be accessible under Chinese data laws, raising privacy risk
- Currently recommended 13+ RedNote has the same risks of exposing children to potential cyberbullying, inappropriate content, and interactions with strangers as other social media platforms.
- Its moderation tools may not fully protect young users. Parents and carers should monitor their child's usage to ensure content is appropriate.



It's important to discuss online safety, remind children to be careful about what they share and consume online. Download the app yourself before agreeing to your child having access so you understand the potential risks that your child may face.

## Alternative to Google – Child safe search engines



Google isn't designed with children in mind. It is filled with ads, tracks browsing activity and isn't great at blocking harmful content. All of which can leave your child open to seeing harmful or inappropriate content, especially as they start to get more curious with their search terms used!

There are some great **kid-safe search engines** that are secure, ad-free and much safer for children:

- ✓ **Kiddle** – Privacy first, fun friendly design and blocks inappropriate websites
- ✓ **Wacky Safe** – Ideal for ages 6 -12, with filters, fun educational tools and parental controls
- ✓ **Swiggle** – Ad-free, education focus and a bonus screen cover widget for extra protection

# What is TikTok Shop?

TikTok Shop, launched in September 2023, allows users to buy trending products without leaving the app, making it highly appealing to young people.

However, concerns include:

- Blurred lines between ads and content,
- The risk of scams and counterfeit goods
- Impulsive buying driven by viral trends.
- Children may struggle to spot scams or resist peer pressure to make unnecessary purchases.
- Be careful when messaging sellers: Don't share too much personal information.

Parents and carers should encourage their children to research sellers, check reviews, and consult them before buying to avoid potential risks.

For more information and safety tips read this article:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-shop-staying-safe-when-buying-online>



## SAFER INTERNET DAY 11th FEBRUARY 2025

Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online

Safer Internet Day is the UK's largest online safety event, focusing this year on online scams and how young people can protect themselves.

Organised by the UK Safer Internet Centre, it will explore the scale of scams, the impact of AI, and ways to improve online safety, with input from young people and industry experts.



This is a great opportunity for parents and carers to get involved in conversations and activities at home with your child about their online world, how to stay safe and what healthy screen use looks like.

Check out these great quizzes you can do at home with your child from Safer Internet.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/2025-sid-quiz>