



E-Safety

Dear Parents,

Please see the information below for an update on E-Safety.

Parental controls: new guidance from the NSPCC

There is guidance for parents on the NSPCC website about how to set parental controls on a variety of devices and apps at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

Parental controls can be used to block upsetting or harmful content, control in-app purchases or manage how long your child spends online. They are available on your broadband or mobile phone data signal; individual devices such as tablets, phones, games consoles, SMART TVs as well as search engines and other apps or websites, for example YouTube, Snapchat or Musical.ly. However, parents and carers need to be aware that they are only part of the strategy to keep your children safe and make be less effective for older or particularly tech-savvy children. Controls will not block a lot of user-generated content such as images and videos shared via group chat or sent on messaging services.

Musical.ly

Many of you may have seen Channels 4' news disturbing investigation last night. They reported many children are continuing to use the social media apps Musical.ly and Live.ly. **Click on the link below to watch the (disturbing) investigation video:**

<https://www.channel4.com/news/children-bombarded-with-sexually-explicit-chat-on-musical-ly-and-live-ly>

We have recently become aware that many of the children in our school are using Musical.ly. Musical.ly is an app that allows users (or Musers as they are known) to post 15-second videos of themselves lip syncing and dancing to music or other audio tracks and interacting with other Musers. Some of the songs contain inappropriate language which may not be appropriate for younger children and there does not currently seem to be a way to switch this off. Some of the children are filming themselves whilst wearing their school uniform and thus are not keeping their personal information private. There is a MyCity feature that gives users a feed from other, local Musers; another worrying feature of the app. Users are encouraged to share their videos. Users have a choice to post videos publically or privately, but if you go onto the app you can see quite young children posting public videos of themselves; the app also allows users to duet and to livestream - another feature that is popular with our children.

Musical.ly has over 80 million users, most of them teens. Users are often looking for hearts which are similar to Facebook Likes. Those Musers at the top of the leaderboard have millions of fans and get correspondingly millions of hearts. We would not recommend young children posting videos publically. Musers also risk getting friendship requests from people they don't know, which can be inappropriate and they can be put under pressure to accept requests or speak to people they don't know.

This app may be of particular interest to children who love performing. If you want to look at the other features then have a look at this step-by-step article:

<http://www.techinsider.io/how-to-use-musically-2016-6/#when-you-open-the-musically-app-it-defaults-to-a-feed-of-featured-videos-1>

Yours sincerely,
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