

# Hayfield School

Manor Drive, Upton, Wirral, CH49 4LN  
Tel: 0151 677 9303 Fax: 0151 677 3981  
E-mail: [schooloffice@hayfield.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@hayfield.wirral.sch.uk)  
HEADTEACHER: Mr L Comber  
"Learning to live and love life - together"



16 January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

## musical.ly App: URGENT CYBER SAFETY UPDATE



This is the App's Icon

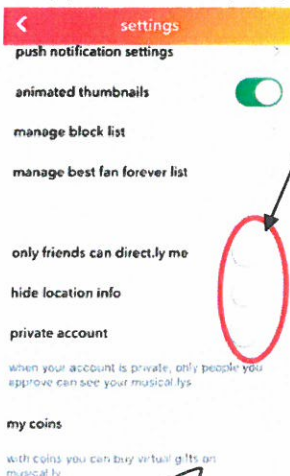
We received an **urgent cyber safety update email** this morning regarding the App **musical.ly**:

*"We have dealt with about 6-8 jobs involving Musical.ly within the past 6 months. It certainly appears to be an application that paedophiles are looking to exploit as the main users of Musical.ly are children, aged 8-12 years old."*

It is available for both Apple and Android devices. You may have read in the media that this App has been associated with potential association and misuse by paedophiles. The following is taken from a blog and will give you information on how to implement parental controls to keep your child or other siblings safe should they be using it. Please pass on this information to other friends who have children and may be using this App.

### WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW:

**Race to the Bottom** – musical.ly is still fairly new (released in 2015), but already seems to be following a predictable social media trend. "Musical.ly Warning". **Some Parental Controls** – Similar to Instagram, users can set their profile to "private" in the settings, which allows them to approve those people he/she allows to see their created videos.



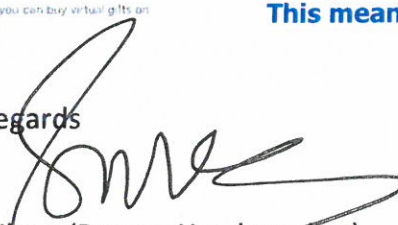
**The three settings circled in red in the image should be toggled on.**

There is also a block list and "musers" can report inappropriate profiles to Musical.ly (although we're not sure how reliable Musical.ly is at taking action). **Unsuitable Material Can be Found** – Like other social media, Musical.ly allows users to upload their own content. Because of this, the nature of the content **always eventually gives way to an abundance of unsuitable material** (just like with Vine, Twitter, and Instagram).

**Too Many Youngsters** – But, there's a disturbing nature to this trend that is unique to Musical.ly. Due to the young age of users (upper elementary school and early middle school), younger and younger kids are at risk of being exposed to inappropriate content and as a result, younger and younger kids seem to be actively participating in creating it.

**This means predators are lurking.**

Kind regards

  
Sue Wilson (Deputy Head teacher)



Article 29: "Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full..."

