



GODSTONE VILLAGE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Last half term, in our school assemblies, we worked with the children on keeping safe online. We focused particularly on the use of apps and websites where children are able to post videos and photographs of themselves. During these assemblies we spoke to the children about how sharing some videos/ images could put them at risk.

Following discussion with parents, it has been made apparent that many pupils across the school are continuing to use the app 'Music.ly' which is aimed at users above the age of 13. The age restrictions on this app are due to the users' exposure to bad language and content of a sexual nature.

In a previous letter about the use of 'Music.ly' we sent a link that explained how you are able to make the app 'private', however this only allows your child not to be seen by others without permission. It will still allow them to have unlimited access to videos, some of which are inappropriate for primary age pupils.

We understand that many pupils are interested in downloading and using this app and as a school we cannot stop them from using these at home, however, we do ask that you monitor their use of apps and change the privacy settings. The details below show how you can change the settings to a private account on 'Music.ly':

There is also information available on online safety at: www.nspcc.org.uk/ShareAware where there is guidance on how to approach this topic with your child and the importance of talking regularly and openly with your child about their internet use to help keep them safe online.

If you have any further questions please arrange an appointment to meet with me.

Many thanks

Mrs Lancashire

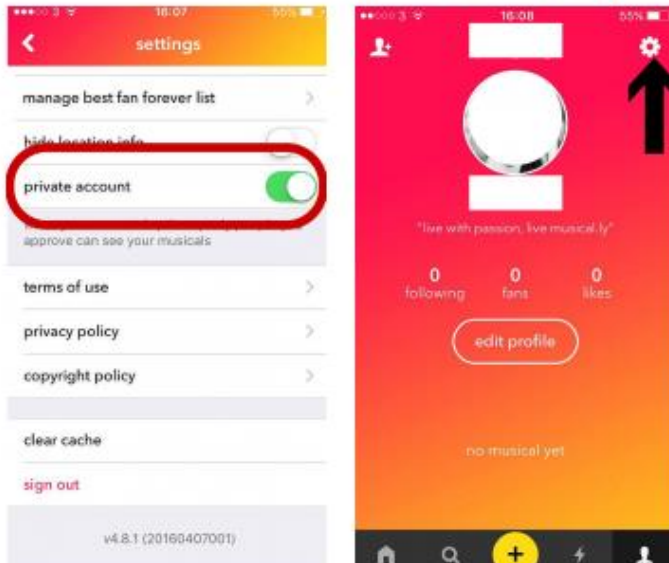
Deputy Headteacher

Inspirational Learning for Life



Can I have a private account on musical.ly?

By default all musical.ly accounts are public. Consider setting your account to private/friends only. Go to your profile using the head icon in the lower left corner and tap the gear icon in the upper right corner. Select "settings" and scroll down to the "private account" function. With a private account only approved users can see your videos, however your profile remains public.



Can I block a user?

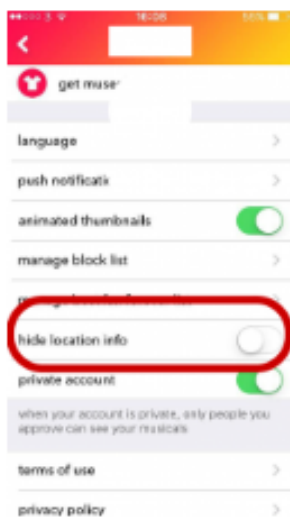
To block a user, go to their profile, press on the "..." in the upper right corner, and select "block this user." You can unblock a user on the same menu.

Users can also Flag Inappropriate content. To flag a musical press on the button with three dots and then click "report abuse."

What are the potential risks?

Users may be exposed to bad language and content of a sexual nature.

Users can comment on other videos, this leaves the potential for online bullying or negative comments. The app does appear to promote positive comments and encourages users to 'say something nice' however if you come across an inappropriate comment there is an option to report abuse.



With anything shared online, we recommend getting to know how the app works, check your privacy settings and always use the Granny Rule!

By default the 'hide location info' feature is switched off which means users share their location of when they post a video, we recommend disabling this option.

Users should also be aware there is current no option to delete your account. musical.ly are working on adding this feature.

Like all apps and social networks, musical.ly does have community guidelines. If your child is using the app, we recommend familiarising yourself with their guidelines

here: musicallyapp.tumblr.com/community

