

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, social networking has becoming increasingly popular with children and young people.

The most common way to use these is by downloading an App to a tablet or smartphone. Recently, there has been increasing concern with the use of the following Apps and it is important that if your child is using these, then you read the following information.

Snapchat (Software Update – ‘SnapMaps’)

A new feature of this App now includes a map feature (Snap Maps) that lets users track other people’s location in real time. It means that friends and other ‘Snapchatters’ can see where they are and what they are doing.

As part of the new feature, there is a ‘Ghost Mode’ which enables you to hide your location on Snap Maps. To turn this on, please follow these instructions:

Click On – SnapMaps – Settings (Top Right) – Click on – ‘Ghost Mode’

Musical.ly & Live.ly

Recently, Channel 4 News investigated concerns over paedophiles targeting children using these two Apps.

Musiical.ly is a popular music App where ‘musers’ can sing along to popular songs and upload them to the site and individuals can comment and share the videos.

Live.ly is made by the same company and is a live streaming App where you can broadcast and communicate with others.

The report found that girls as young as 9 years old were being bombarded with requests to remove their clothing and change into sexy outfits. There was a number of very sexually explicit comments made to other girls using the Apps and the journalist who investigated found no moderation on the site.

It is important that you talk to your child about using these Apps. Most importantly, if they get a question or request that makes them feel uncomfortable, they should speak to a responsible adult immediately.

Musical.ly also has some privacy controls which can be accessed via the settings option.

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