

**Thursday 21st December – E Safety Updates.**

Please find very latest updates to keep your children safe online especially with the Christmas Holidays approaching. I enclose a letter and information from Judith Davies our Community Support Officer below. This has been updated to include the popular apps Music.ly and Live.ly She will be coming to work with the children in Class 2 and 3 on **Wednesday 10th January. Judith will then run a Parent/Carer Workshop at 2.30 p.m. on that day.** Please do attend whether you have children of this age or not as Judith is very helpful and informative and will offer support and answer any questions you may have.

Dear Parent/ Carer,

This is a time of year when we know that young people will be accessing new ‘phones and other technologies as well as increased access to the internet.

Your child’s school has a positive and robust approach to internet safety and to support this, I will be coming into school in the New Year to talk to staff and pupils about the safe and legal use of social media. In the meantime, I would like to ask for your support in delivering these important messages to children at home and to help with this, I have attached a help sheet with the most common sites being used by young people.

Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Police regularly receive complaints and reports relating to the misuse of social media, many of which relate to young people. Whilst we would always support positive and constructive social media use, it is recognised that its misuse can lead to distress, cause offence and in some cases may be against the law. It is our aim to make sure that young people know how to use social media safely, legally and with the same courtesy they would when speaking face to face to others.

I hope you find this information useful and if you wish to speak to me about this or any other community safety matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch on the number shown.

Judith Davis,

Community Safety Officer,

Northumberland County Council

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Facebook says….

“Facebook is a social network, which lets you create a page about yourself. You can add ‘friends’, share pictures and videos, write on people’s pages, send instant messages and join online groups.”

## Facebook -Needs internet/Wi-Fi and can be used on a phone, computer, tablet or smart TV. The Facebook app is free and the user downloads it and creates a personal profile. Most people put up a profile picture so people can see who they are when searching for friends. You cannot join someone else’s FB page (become a ‘friend’) without them accepting your request. Only accept friends you really do know. If you keep your settings right, then strangers will only see a small amount of info if they look at your page.

## Good points – great for seeing what others are doing and looking at their pictures, sharing things with others, especially those far away. You can chat with a friend privately via direct message or ‘inbox’. Events can be advertised and pages are set up so people can buy and sell things and have discussions about things of interest.

Safe and legal social media use

**Musical.ly** - (M)users use their own songs, songs borrowed from friends or taken from the musical.ly library to create videos in which they sing along or lip sync. Musers can like posts, comment, ask questions and invite people to start duets. They can also share their musical.ly content on other social media platforms, and like most of those platforms, musical.ly is #hashtag centric.

**Good points** - you have the ability to make cool, short videos–songs or short dialogues–that you can share with the world, and people can see them. Think MTV meets karaoke meets Pop Idol meets Instagram…… Pop celebrities like Ariana Grande are known to use the account.

**Bad Points** - Some song have sexually explicit lyrics, as with all sites there is potential for unfriendly comments and bullying (although in the comment box, there’s a reminder to be nice) Currently, accounts cannot be deleted and settings must be private or anyone can follow.

**The law** - as with most sites you can report inappropriate use such as bullying or inappropriate images/comments. Where there is any evidence of exploitation, this should always be reported to police

*Musical.ly says…..*

*“Musical.ly is an app based around lip-sync videos. It's a social app, similar to Instagram but for sharing short videos, called musicals, mainly of users lip-syncing to popular songs and quotes. Musical.ly is free, and you sign up for an account using your Facebook or Twitter credentials”*

Knowledge checker!

See if your child can show you how to change settings in relation to tagged friends…..

**Bad points** - sometimes used for bullying - writing something unpleasant on someone else’s page or making comments on your own about another.

It is also *vital* you understand the privacy setting on Facebook otherwise your child may be sharing information and pictures with people they don’t know!

Children may also be exposed to unwanted material from friends of friends without asking for it (depending on settings).

Your location can be shown which may not be advisable. (Can be altered in settings).

**The Law** – Bullying can become harassment and this can be dealt with by the police. It can be very distressing for those involved. It is also illegal to post anything indecent on social media and it should be reported immediately.

**What to do** – **Screen shot** any comments (but not indecent images), **block** the other person and **report** to someone you can trust.

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**Livel.ly** - is a *live video streaming platform* created by musical.ly. Teens

can use Live.ly to broadcast to fans and friends, and have real-time

interactions. They can broadcast real-time, anytime to anyone who is

on the app and take a snapshot, comment, send digital gifts and follow

broadcasters.

Good points - It helps users to connect with friends, watch broadcasts

from other users and showcases their live streams to the world.

Bad points - Live streaming “life” can be risky, especially for a young

person who may be influenced to share too much personal information

or inappropriate content to gain more viewers or likes.

The open forum allows users to receive live responses which can

potentially mean that inappropriate content is sent to children. Parents

should take extreme caution when deciding if their children should use

this app based on the risks.

The law – users must be 13 yrs old although the site says that by signing

in you are saying you are 18, which makes no sense. As with all social

media platforms, inappropriate use must be reported but as this is live,

the possibility for it not being saved may encourage more risk taking

behaviour.

*Live.ly is a live stream video platform that works alongside the musical.ly app. It allows teens to broadcast their lives to the world as it happens; it also initiates group video chats with their friends to hang out virtually.*

**We tell children it’s good to share, but online**

**it’s different. That’s why we’re asking parents**

**to be Share Aware.**

**….NSPCC**

**You Tube** - This is the place to watch cartoons, music videos and funny clips from your favourite shows. You can also make your own channel and put on videos you have recorded yourself and see if you can get lots of ‘plays’ and ‘likes’. (You will need to set up a profile to do this) Some children use it to see how others have played a scene in a video game for help (people record themselves playing for others to watch).

**Good points** – It’s fun and entertaining especially if you are away from the TV (You can make a playlist of their favourite music videos, or watch cartoon episodes (needs internet/Wi-Fi).

**Bad points** – YouTube likes to suggest other videos you may like to watch based upon what you are watching. That means if your child plays a suggestive music video or watches someone playing a game for older children, the suggestions may not be age appropriate (includes bad language, suggestive imagery)

**The law** – The uploading of videos containing defamation, pornography, and material encouraging criminal conduct is prohibited by YouTube's terms of service. YouTube relies on its users to flag the content of videos as inappropriate. As parents, it is important to know what children watch and **report** anything unsuitable to YouTube.

*YouTube says…*

*“YouTube is a place to watch, create and share videos. Videos can include things like music, animation, online blogs and clips from TV shows. You can create your own YouTube account, create a music playlist, and even create your own channel, which means you will have a public profile, and it allows you to comment on videos and create video playlists”.* **and share** **YouTube is a place to watch, create and share videos. Videos can include things like music, animation, online blogs and clips from TV shows. You can create your own YouTube account, create a music playlist, and even create your own channel, which means you will have a public profile, and it allows you to comment on videos and create video playlists - videos. Videos can include things like music, animation, online blogs and clips from TV shows. You can create your own YouTube account, create a music playlist, and even create your own channel, which means you will have a public profile, and it allows you to comment on videos and create video playlists - uTube is a place to watch, create and a YouTube is a place to watch, create and share videos. Videos can include things like music, animation, online blogs and clips from TV shows. You can create your own YouTube account, create a music playlist, and even create your own channel, which means you will have a public profile, and it allows you to comment on videos and create video playlists - place to watch, create and share videos. Videos can include things like music, animation, online blogs and clips from TV shows. You can create your own YouTube account, create a music playlist, and even create your own channel, which means you will have a public profile, and it allows you to comment on videos and create video playlistsate your own channel, which means you will have a public profile, and it allows you to comment on videos and create video playlistsideos can include things like music, animation, online blogs and clips from TV shows. You can create your own YouTube account, create a music playlist, and even create your own channel, which means you will have a public profile, and it allows you to comment on videos and create video playlists**

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*Ask your child to show you the ‘Private Account setting’ on Instagram. On Snapchat, get them to show you how to change settings for “who can send me snaps” and “who can view my story”*

*(Only one has a ‘Custom’ option – do they know which it is?*

## Instagram – one of the main picture sharing apps. Users can share pictures with followers who can post comments. It now features a 24 hour story facility. If you use other sites like Facebook or Twitter, you can share them there too at the touch of a button directly from Instagram.

**Good points** – if you like sharing pictures, it’s great. It’s fun to take a picture and share it. Celebrities have made ‘selfies’ popular in recent years.

You can set your account to ‘private’ so that people have to ask to be a follower and therefore see your pics or comments. (NB. *Posts can't be set to private from a desktop computer*.)

You can anonymously flag a photo you find indecent directly to Instagram.

**Bad points -** By default (that means the basic setting when you start out) *anyone* can view photos uploaded to Instagram – in other words, your profile and pictures are publicly viewable unless you tell it otherwise.

Also, remember that images deleted from your phone/tablet may not be deleted from the server belonging to the app. That means they can be found at a later date. Only share photos you are happy for *everyone* to see!

**The law** – Instagram has been associated with some bullying and this should be reported as it may fall under harassment legislation. Indecent images are also against the law and should not be sent. If received it should also be **reported** immediately.

*Instagram says…*

*“Instagram is a picture and video sharing app.*

*Users can post content and use hashtags (#) to share experiences, thoughts or memories with an online community.*

*You can follow your friends, family, celebrities and* *even companies on Instagram”*

*Snapchat says….*

*“Snapchat is an app that lets you send a photo or short video to your friends. The ‘snap’ appears on screen for a matter of seconds before disappearing. There’s also a feature called Snapchat Story that lets you share lots of snaps in a sequence for up to 24 hours”.*

## Snapchat – Main selling point is taking a picture that will disappear in a set amount of time (up to 10 seconds). You can either upload a short term image or add a sequence of pictures to a Snapchat story which stays open for 24 hours.

Young people love the spontaneity and they can also open up a chat with friends. There have also been funny filters added recently so that images and videos can be enhanced or added to.

**Good points** – The default setting means that your child will only get pictures from friends – so no nasty surprises unless from a stranger!

By having the photos self- destruct in a few seconds, it saves memory.

If you login under 13yrs old, you will automatically be directed to Snapkidz, which is more age appropriate and does not allow photo sharing and messaging.

**Bad points** – whilst the photo may disappear from the *phone*, this does not stop it being saved by **screen shot.** Most kids know how to do this. Now, the picture is no longer temporary and is saved. This means it can be shared, so if you don’t want the world to see it – **don’t send it!** (*Snapchat say that you will be advised of a screenshot at the other end, but there are now apps you can get to do this undetected*)

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<http://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Part of the NSPCC – you will find a run down of over 40 different sites; what they do, what you need to know.

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/sexting>

A great place to look at how to deal with and approach the subject of sexting. A difficult topic but one that needs early discussions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_JUtM_mLHI>

Horrid Histories do internet safety. A funny and age appropriate video from the BBC children’s show which demonstrates the need to know your privacy settings.

<http://www.northumbria.police.uk/advice_and_information/esafety/>

Advice from Northumbria police about e safety – not just social networking but fraud and other issues affecting all age groups.

*And finally………*

There are a few extra things to know to make sure you can support your child in their social networking use and make sure they are safe and legal.

* Although the use of sites is not covered by law in the UK, the activity carried out on the sites is.
* The Protection from Harassment Act can be used in cases of repeated bullying or harassment. Police and NCC prefer to deal with such cases more informally at first but will use the law should it be required.
* It is against the law to possess or distribute an indecent image of a child. That means that those young people engaging in ‘sexting’ (sending naked pictures of themselves to each other) are actually breaking the law. It is not the policy of police or NCC to criminalise young people and it is felt that education is a better approach, however where an adult is exploiting a child, or the incidents are malicious or repeated, the law is used to its full extent.
* Most young people when spoken to said that their parent or carer was not the first person they would go to if they had a concern about a social media site. They tended to confide in friends initially and teachers are quickly becoming a trusted resource to confide in. For this reason it is important not to alienate your child and their social media use.
* To make sure that your children are confident they can talk to you about their experiences – good or bad – it is worthwhile engaging with them. Ask them what they are looking at or who they are talking to. Maybe tell the younger ones that this is a condition of them having the app at first.
* If you have a smart phone or tablet yourself, you can login to your child’s account and see what they are posting and seeing. You just need their user name and password, then download the app and log in as them.

This may be a useful compromise if you are unsure about them having a social media account

* Remember to tell them to **Block, Screenshot** and **Report** anything they know or feel is wrong.
* Why not look at the sites below for more help and funnies to help get the message over ☺

**Safe and legal social media use**

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