



# The Ferrers School

Head Teacher: Mr Jonathan Giles MA, DipEd, BSc Hons



31<sup>st</sup> January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Musically



## Online Safety – Urgent message

It has been reported to us by another local school about inappropriate behaviour online towards their students. This involves the App Musical.ly. The App is designed to allow the user to create music videos.

The students involved have been 'followed' online by an individual who initially follows them, starts "liking" what they post and then initiates conversation. Very quickly the conversation progresses from 'Hi, you're cute' to requesting the conversation moves privately to the Oovoo App. This site is widely used by paedophiles.

Conversations on musically have rapidly moved to requests for live chat or uploads of highly inappropriate images. The school who have shared this information have been made aware of one incident where the person has sent a lewd picture of his own genitalia.

We are able to educate young people to the dangers they face online and give them the tools to protect themselves. We, the school and parent/carer, are unable to police and monitor in full their online activity so it is important that we work together to keep them as safe as possible.

We would ask that you take the time to talk to your child about this incident, reiterate the online safety message and that the behaviour mentioned in this letter is clearly grooming. Statistics show that online grooming takes only 20 minutes before a young person is taken in by the perpetrator.

If you identify that your child may have been contacted in this manner we advise that you keep any evidence on the phone and contact the Police on 101. Your child should not have any further contact with anyone behaving in this manner.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns please contact your child's Student Progress Leader or Assistant Headteacher, Miss Leech.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Giles  
Headteacher

