



Towradgi Public School

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Principal: Mrs. Catherine Broadbridge

Social Networking App Music.ly

Dear Parents/Carers

The social networking and lip sync singing app, Music.ly is not an approved school app. Students from TOPS school have been using the app in their own time outside of school hours. As part of our commitment to educate and protect our students and community, we advise that this app is not to be used by students of Towradgi Public School. Ultimately, the decision about apps you allow your child to use is yours and we trust in your ability to monitor your child's online behaviour.

There are many reasons why we are providing this advice. The app has a large social networking element that may seem to be controllable through privacy settings and responsible online behaviour such as; blocking strangers and notifying adults of inappropriate content. This is not the case. Access to the profiles can never be made entirely private and unlike other social networking apps, blocking does not provide adequate protection of accounts.

What parents need to know about musical.ly

The following information has been provided by Leonie Smith AKA 'The Cyber Safety Lady'. This information and other helpful facts can be found on her website: <https://thecybersafetylady.com.au>

MUSIC.LY TERMS STATE THAT IT IS AN APP FOR USERS AGED 13+

- 18+ content in the song's lyrics. Swearing and adult concepts in the provided music.
- Inappropriate images with mature adult themes.
- Musical.ly users can search for other users to view or follow near their own location.
- User generated videos can be viewed and shared onto other social media and messaging apps increasing exposure.
- Users can live stream to their Musical.ly friends/followers via Musical.ly's add on app Live.ly which is also free and available for download only from the Apple app store
- Live.ly live streaming is not private even if you have the privacy settings set up.
- Many fake user accounts, used to hijack views or set up to bully.
- Not easy to report accounts for being fakes or underage inside the app.
- Many underage accounts with large amounts of followers.
- Easy for users to create multiple accounts and hide them from their parents.

If you require any further information about this app or others like it, including how to delete accounts and apps, please contact Mr Pritchard at the school on (02) 42844527

Regards
Mr Pritchard
Assistant Principal