



3rd November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

I have recently had a growing number of reports across school that children have indicated that they regularly access websites and apps with ratings of 13+.

Those mentioned in particular were Facebook, Musical.ly and Youtube and I am including the information on the back of this letter for your own consideration.

Please would you discuss this with your child and ensure they are accessing the internet in the safest ways. Please feel free to contact me should you need to talk about this further with someone from school.

Thank you for supporting us with this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Clarke', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mr N Clarke
E-Safety Coordinator



musical.ly - your video social network

age 16+ ★★★★★

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

- Ease of play ●●●●
- Violence ●●●●
- Sex ●●●●
- Language ●●●●
- Consumerism ●●●●
- Drinking, drugs, & smoking ●●●●

Parents need to know that musical.ly - your video social network is a social network for sharing user-generated music videos that's similar to Dubsmash. You can upload your own videos, remix others' work, or browse content created by other users and by more famous recording artists. Because it involves popular music, there's lots of swearing and sexual content in the songs, though the videos seen during the review process only contained some tight and revealing clothing. However, some families have encountered explicit sexual material despite the available settings and controls in the app. Because teens can select whether to share their videos with their friends or the general public, they'll want to adjust their settings accordingly. Read the app's privacy policy to find out about the types of information collected and shared.



YouTube

age 13+ ★★★★★

Vast video site entertains, educates; iffy stuff abounds.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

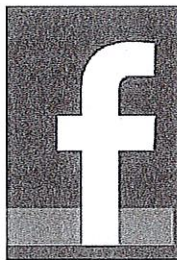
- Educational value ●●●●
- Positive messages ●●●●
- Violence ●●●●
- Sex ●●●●
- Language ●●●●
- Consumerism ●●●●
- Drinking, drugs, & smoking ●●●●

Parents need to know that YouTube is a video-sharing site, and there are many videos on YouTube that may not be age-appropriate for their kids. Channel owners can also now distribute live content, and can launch livestreams at will, which are governed by YouTube rules. The site is entirely user-generated and relies on its community to flag videos that violate YouTube's terms of service (mostly for sexual content, language, and hate speech). Plenty of inappropriate content can surface by typing in the most innocent of search terms, so parents will want to monitor kids' use. Videos here run the gamut, from commercial to educational to music videos to homemade clips. Many kids love YouTube and rely on it as a way of keeping up with popular culture; videos go "viral" when viewers share the clips they like. One of the Web's most popular destinations for people of all ages, YouTube now curates its videos, suggesting clips and new "channels" based on what you've watched previously. Kids can also discover new videos by seeing what's popular and trending throughout its immense collection. These new features can easily increase the amount of time your kids spend on the site. YouTube does offer parents the ability to filter out objectionable content and comments using Safety Mode. However, Safety Mode doesn't catch everything, and it's easy to disable. YouTube also has three channels by which users can access specialized content: YouTube Kids, YouTube Gaming, and YouTube Music. Users can also subscribe to YouTube Red: For \$9.99 a month, users can stream videos for free, save videos for background and offline viewing, and access new original content.

See full details

Facebook

Website review by Erin Brereton, Common Sense Media



Common Sense says

age 15+ ★★★★★

Huge social site connects, serves ads; check settings.

<http://www.facebook.com>

Save | Rate website

Sign in or join to save for later

You can easily find information about any of the apps, websites or games your child is using by searching in the search bar on the Common Sense Media

Website:

www.commonsensemedia.org

The European PEGI website provides ratings and descriptions of content for all console games:

www.pegi.info