

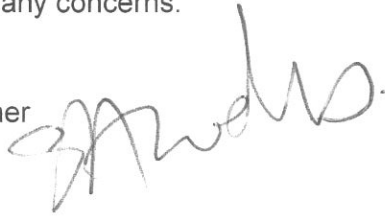
Dear Parent/Carer

On-line Safe Guarding

Please find below a letter sent out to all parents by the Head Teacher of Huxlow School and copied to the Head Teachers of all Northamptonshire Schools. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns.

Thank you
Shez Webb

Executive Head Teacher



30 January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Musical.ly



Online Safety – Urgent message

It has been reported to us by a number of Year 8 students about inappropriate behaviour online towards them. This involves the App Musical.ly. The App is designed to allow the user to create music videos.

The girls 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 (Students were told about this App, amongst others) in Online Safety assemblies delivered by the county Online-Safety Officer, Simon Aston, in June 2016 and at the start of this term.

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

In response to this incident that has taken place we would like to reassure that all the students who have come forward with information and evidence had the resilience and forethought not to do what was requested. What we cannot be sure of are any students who have not come forward concerning this or other individuals.

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 contracted 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.

Further learning opportunities will take place in school before February term. You will be notified of these.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns please contact your child's Pastoral leader, Key Stage or Assistant headteacher, Mrs Gauvrit.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Gordon
Headteacher