



Friday, 7 July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Snapmaps



The following information is important to you if you or your children use snapchat. Snapchat is an app that lets you send a photo, short video or message to your contacts. The 'snap' appears on screen for up to 10 seconds before disappearing, although a screenshot can be taken.

Snapchat recommend the minimum age of users is 13 years. Snapchat has a new feature that enables others to identify a snapchat user's precise location. **If your children use snapchat you should discuss with them the type of setting they have for this feature, if they use it. Choose who can see your location.**

It is important to be careful with whom you share your location, as it can allow people to build up a picture of where you live, go to school and spend your time. Given how specific this new feature is on Snapchat - giving your location to a precise pinpoint on a map - we would encourage users of snapchat to discuss whether they want to share their location, especially with people they don't know in person.

There are three settings for sharing your location on the map, these are: Ghost mode, My Friends, and Select Friends.

### **Ghost Mode**

Ghost Mode means that you are the only person who can see your location on the map. Within Ghost Mode you can still see the locations of your friends but they will be unable to see you. This setting will ensure that you have complete control over who knows your location.

### **My Friends**

My Friends means that all of your contacts on Snapchat can see your location. If turning on this setting then it would be important for users to review their Snapchat contacts and also make sure that they never add someone they don't know in person onto Snapchat.

### **Select Friends**

This setting allows users to look through their friend list and then decide which of their friends they want to be able to view their location. This setting also gives users the opportunity to control who can view their location.

Finally, please talk to your children if they use Snapchat and discuss how they might use this feature and please use an appropriate setting.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Murphy  
Computing Curriculum Tam

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## Changing settings

When first opening the Snap Map users get to make a decision of who they want to be able to view their location. Once these settings are in place they can always be changed in Snapchat's settings. This can be done in two ways:

- 1** In the Snapchat settings  
In the Snapchat screen click on the Settings (cog) icon > click on 'see my location' > Choose the setting which suits you
- 2** On the Snap Map  
Click on the setting button in the top right of the map > choose the setting which suits you