



A PARENT GUIDE TO 'SNAPCHAT'



What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send pictures or videos to each other which 'disappear' after being viewed. Users can set a maximum length of time that the pictures are visible for (up to 10 seconds), although users can also set a series of images which can be viewed for 24 hours called a 'Story'.

How does it work?

Each time a 'Snap' is shared, your child can choose how long the viewers can view it – from 1 to 10 seconds. If the receiver screenshots the 'snap' that has been sent, Snapchat will notify your child.

Who can my child share content with?

Users can share their content with 3 different audiences.

- **Everyone**: This will mean that their content will be seen by all users.
- **Status Message**: Videos and photos are only seen by people who have been added as friends. Your child must actively add friends that they would like to send or receive content from.
- **Online**: This enables your child to select friends they want to block from seeing their content. By default only users your child has added to their friends list can view the content.

Remind your child that people can screenshot their images. So if they are only sending the 'snap' to one person – would they like other people to see it? If not, think twice before sending...

Snap Maps – a new and potentially dangerous feature that has been added to Snapchat

Snap Maps enable a user to share their locations with each other so you can see where they are and what's going on around them. As this new feature shows your precise location pinpoint on a map, we would encourage users not to share their location, especially with people they don't know in person.

Location settings

There are three location settings your child can choose from:

- **Ghost Mode**: you are the only person who can see your location on the map.
- **My Friends**: means that all of your contacts on Snapchat can see your location.
- **Select Friends**: allows users to look through their friend list and decide which of their friends they want to be able to view their location.

Remind your child to use Snapchat sensibly and to only share their location with people they know in person, never with a stranger. This could potentially be a very dangerous feature if used incorrectly.