

7<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear parents and carers,

### **E-SAFETY UPDATE: SNAPCHAT LOCATION SHARING UPDATE**

The information below follows the recent update from the popular app, Snapchat. Whilst we appreciate that your child is still too young to access Snapchat, it may be something that they, older siblings or friends may be aware of and we felt that it was important to share this recent update with you.

A new feature called 'Snap Map' has been introduced, which allows people to locate other users based on their location. It is accurate enough to isolate users to a particular household.

Whilst the location sharing function may well have its benefits for 'friends' to meet up, it also raises specific safety concerns. Once you get onto the 'Snap Map' it will show where your child's Snapchat friends are and what they are doing there (if they share a picture). The update also allows you to upload Snaps to 'Our Story' so that anyone can see your picture. Anyone who is a 'friend' on your child's Snapchat account would be able to locate their exact whereabouts if this function is enabled, and could then track them. This has raised some serious concerns regarding safeguarding. Parents wishing to read the article can find it on the BBC website using the link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-40382876>

Anyone who is a 'friend' on your child's Snapchat account would be able to locate their exact whereabouts if this function is enabled. We would recommend that parents and carers check their child's privacy settings for this App and have a conversation with them to determine its safety and how and when the location sharing function is used, if at all.

### **How to switch off Snap Map location sharing**

1. When in photo-taking mode, pinch the screen to open Snap Map
2. Touch the settings cog in the top right corner of the screen
3. Tap "Ghost Mode" to switch off location sharing Photos and videos posted to Snapchat's public 'Our Story' will still be discoverable on the map

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



Alison Nettleship  
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