



Snapchat



Snapchat is a photo messaging app with a twist and appeals to people of all ages. You can take photos, record videos, add text and filters, and then share them with friends. These 'snaps' aren't saved by default, and you can control how long viewers can view the 'snap' (ranging from 1-10 seconds). If someone screenshots a 'snap' that has been sent to them, Snapchat will notify the sender of this.


Age restricted? **YES**

Snapchat is not intended for use by children under the age of 13.



Who can my child communicate with?

You can add friends from your mobile contacts, their snapchat username, by Snapcode, or with the Add Nearby feature. Ensure that your child's security settings are up to date and that they are only communicating with real friends on the app.



Can I control location settings?

There are 3 location settings to choose from on Snapchat: Ghost Mode, My Friends, and Select Friends. Ghost mode means that you are the only person who can physically see your location on the Map. You can still see your friends but they cannot see you.

My Friends means that all of your contacts on Snapchat can see your location.

Select Friends means that users can look through their friends list and then decide which of their friends they want to be able to view their location.

REMEMBER Screenshots can be taken of 'snaps' that are sent, however the sender will be notified. Make sure your child is aware of the risks around this, and also with sharing inappropriate content.

What Can I do to protect my child?

Have regular conversations around who they are communicating with on Snapchat. If necessary, regularly sit down and get them to show you who is in their contact list. Explain the significance of a 'Digital Footprint', and also around sending appropriate messages. Remind your child that sending sexual messages and images is against the law. Urge them to report any inappropriate behaviour to Snapchat, and also make their parents/guardians aware so that it can be reported to the police if necessary.



Can you block users?

By blocking someone in Snapchat, this will mean they are prevented from sending 'snaps', chats, or viewing your stories. Deleting someone means they will no longer show up in your friends list, but it doesn't necessarily mean that they will not be able to view your 'snaps'.

Have a conversation with your child about who they have as their friends, and tell them to not communicate with unknown users. Blocking of users may be appropriate if they are contacting you/them inappropriately.



Further information: www.internetmatters.org,
www.saferinternet.org.uk, www.thinkuknow.co.uk,
www.getsafeonline.org

