



Re: SH/sf

June 27th 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Please see below some information that has come to our attention.

Snapchat Warning

PARENTS - BE AWARE. PLEASE SHARE!

Snapchat has just had a huge update. It now shows where any of the user's (your child's) friends are at any time. It uses GPS to precisely pinpoint on a map where the users are, even changing to a car when they move quickly. Your child and other users are depicted by a Bitmoji (as seen below).

Once you get onto the Snap Map it'll show you where your Snapchat friends are and what they are doing there if they share a picture. The update also allows you to upload Snaps to the "Our Story" so that anyone can see your picture.

Don't worry though - if you don't want your location shared then you can set up a "Ghost Mode" to keep it private.

It may sound like innocent fun but if your children have their location shared then people can potentially track them down.

The map shows exactly where they are which has raised serious concerns. While they would need to know your child's username, and for them to accept their friend request, to access this information it is often easy to find it online.

I urge you to check your child's settings, ensure they are set to 'ghost mode' if necessary.

Update: To turn on Ghost Mode: Open Snapchat onto the camera screen. Pinch inward on this screen as if you're trying to make it smaller.

You'll then be taken to the map screen.

You will see your Bitmoji, (or your green silhouette) click on it and your settings appear at the bottom of the screen. Click there and turn 'ghost mode' on.

Ghost mode is only available if you have done the update. The update was effective from 21st June.

Yours sincerely

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Key Stage 4 Manager





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