



## St Andrew's Online Safety Newsletter for Parents 11 2024

### SNAPCHAT

#### What is SNAPCHAT?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

#### NEW safeguarding features

Snapchat have recently announced their newest features to help protect 13-17-year-olds. The features include seeing a warning message if they receive a chat from someone who has been blocked/reported by others. Also, if a teen blocks a user, it will also now block any future friend requests sent from accounts created on the same device (to reduce the potential of bullying). These two features are available to users aged 13- 17-year-olds, this is one of the reasons why it is always important for your child to sign up with their correct date of birth, so they can benefit from such features. You can find out more as well as about the other new features here:

[New Features to Help Protect Our Community \(snap.com\)](https://snap.com/news/new-features-to-help-protect-our-community)

#### Family Centre

Family Centre is a set of parental controls designed to help you see what your child is doing when using Snapchat. You must have your own Snapchat account to set it up. Family Centre allows you to see who your child is friends with, who they are communicating with (not the contents of conversations though) and who your child has sent messages, photos or videos to in the last week. You will also be able to report any accounts that you are concerned about as well as restrict sensitive content. Snapchat have published a safety checklist to help support conversations about how to use Snapchat safely:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls>

#### What should I be concerned about?

Risks of using Snapchat include your child viewing content that is not appropriate for them, location sharing and contact from strangers.



#### Safety tips

Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up on Snapchat and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

<https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

#### More information

Parent Zone have published a short 5-minute guide here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat>



#### Family Quiz for Online Wellbeing Tips

The NSPCC have created a quiz that can be completed as a family to help you have discussions together and find out about the NSPCC's top tips for positive online wellbeing.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-wellbeing/positively-online/quiz/>

**Apps to help get your child active:** These apps are organised by age group:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/apps-to-help-kids-get-active/>

**Wellbeing apps:** These apps are organised by topic such as sleep aids or managing anxiety and will help your child develop an understanding of how to look after their own wellbeing:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/wellbeing-apps-guide-for-kids/>