

Thursday 20 July 2017

**E-safety Update:** *New feature from Snapchat - the Snapmap*

Dear parent/carer,

We wish to inform you that Snapchat have launched a new update on their app called 'Snap Map'. This latest feature allows users to share their location with people they are connected to on Snapchat. The feature displays a map of people they are connected to, showing their latest location using a smartphone's GPS sensor. Users of the app can also display public photos and videos sent by people from those locations.

Given how specific this new feature is on Snapchat -giving your location to a precise pinpoint on a map -we would urge parents/carers to **disable this location feature on their child's phone** by selecting the **Ghost Mode** on this app. Ghost Mode means that you are the only person who can see your location on the map. We are aware that some students are connected to people on Snapchat that they do not personally know. This facility allows a student's location to be traced by these strangers.

To enable the ghost mode, simply pinch the screen (as if zooming out from a photo) when it is in the selfie mode, to bring up the Snap Map. Click the settings icon in the top right hand corner and select 'ghost mode'.

Click here for a video guide: <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/whats-on/family-kids-news/snapchat-snap-maps-safety-children-13273092>

In addition, it is worth knowing that Snapchat is not the only app that uses current location (although not as specific), so you should be aware that any posts your child makes can be traced back if they have location enabled.

It is our advice, endorsed by other online safety organisations, that you regularly check your child's use of social media and apps. We regularly discuss online safety with students and discuss how they can keep themselves safe.

Further advice about staying safe online can be found at these links:

<http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

<http://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/how-to-stay-safe-online/>

Yours sincerely,



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