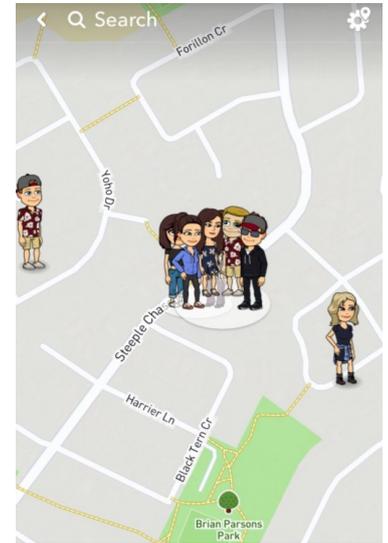


Child safety on Snapchat

Snapchat is an app for sending photos and videos and text messages. The minimum age to use Snapchat is 13, but it's easy to sign up if you're younger.

What's are the risks?

- Your child's location could be shared automatically with their contacts, which could put them in danger if they have strangers as 'friends'.
- There's a high risk of seeing sexualised and extreme videos in the spotlight video feed.
- Group messages are a place pupils can experience peer on peer harassment without adults realising.



4 steps to help your child use Snapchat safely

1. Consider whether it is appropriate to use the app at all.

Even with close monitoring and restrictions, the risks your child faces on Snapchat, or any other form of social media is extremely high. They will still be exposed to inappropriate content as well as peer on peer abuse.

2. Tell your child to only use it with real friends

Anyone could pretend to be a child or teenager online, so encourage your child never to talk to people they don't know in real life.

3. Use privacy settings

Tap the person icon in the top-left of Snapchat, then the cog in the top-right. Scroll down to 'Who Can ...' and tap the relevant options.

Under '**Who Can See My Location**', choose '**Ghost Map**' to turn location sharing off.

Under '**Who can view my story**', choose 'my friends'.

Under '**Who Can See Me In Quick Add**' select 'my friends'.

4. Talk to your child about inappropriate messages and images

Even though images disappear in Snapchat, they can be screenshotted and then shared. Remind your child to think carefully about the images they share, and with who. In particular, make sure your child knows not to take and share revealing pictures of themselves or another child, either voluntarily or if asked to by someone else.