



# Safeguarding Bulletin

APRIL 2026

## A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SNAPCHAT

Dear Parents and Carers,  
In this month's bulletin we are going to be looking at Snapchat and how to keep children safe on the app.

Many children become more engaged with social media at a young age and Snapchat is one of the most popular apps among them. It is important to note that the minimum age requirement for using Snapchat is 13 years old. While Snapchat can be a fun way for children to stay connected with friends, it also comes with risks.

### **What is Snapchat?**

Snapchat is a social media app that allows users to send photos, videos and messages that disappear after being viewed. It also includes features like Stories, Snap Maps, and AI chatbots.

## RISKS OF SNAPCHAT

### **Risks of Snapchat**

While Snapchat can be enjoyable, there are risks parents should be aware of:

#### **Disappearing messages:**

disappearing Snaps encourage children to participate in more risky behaviour. They might send things that they wouldn't usually as they know it will disappear.

#### **Stranger danger:**

strangers can contact your child if their privacy settings are not secure. Snap Maps: this feature shows a user's location in real-time, which can put children at risk if not managed properly.

**Inappropriate content:** children may come across content that is not age appropriate.

**Pressure to maintain "Streaks":** Streaks (sending Snaps daily) can create unnecessary pressure and anxiety for children.



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## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

### Safety features

Parents should know Snapchat has built-in safety features that can help protect your child. Here are some important ones:

**Privacy settings:** go to Settings > Privacy Controls to ensure only friends can contact your child and view their content.

**Ghost Mode on Snap Maps:** this hides your child's location from others. Enable this by going to Snap Maps and selecting 'Ghost Mode'.

**Report and block:** teach your child how to block or report inappropriate content or users.

**Family Centre:** Snapchat's parental control tool allows you to see who your child is communicating with while respecting their privacy



**HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN WHO USE SNAPCHAT**

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY

Have open conversations about online safety and responsible social media use.



### SET BOUNDARIES

Agree on screen time limits and appropriate usage times.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Let your child know they can come to you if something makes them uncomfortable online.



### MODEL GOOD DIGITAL HABITS

Show your child how to use technology responsibly by setting a good example.

The\_Enlightened\_Parent

