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E Safety Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

During the past year we have sent home two letters regarding safe use of the internet and social media. I am sure that you will be aware that there has been some recent concerns about the recent update to Snapchat which now includes a maps feature that enables your child's exact location to be identified by anyone they are Snapchat friends with. It is important to be careful about who young users share their location with, as it can allow people to build up a picture of where they live, go to school and spend their time. Given how specific this new feature is on Snapchat - giving their location to a precise pinpoint on a map - we would encourage users not to share their location, especially with people they don't know in person.

There are three settings for sharing locations on the map, these are; Ghost mode, My Friends, and Select Friends. But what do these settings mean?

Ghost Mode

Ghost Mode means that you are the only person who can see your location on the map. Within Ghost Mode you can still see the locations of your friends but they will be unable to see you. This setting will ensure that you have complete control over who knows your location.

My Friends

My Friends means that all of your contacts on Snapchat can see your location. If turning on this setting then it would be important for users to review their Snapchat contacts and also make sure that they never add someone they don't know in person onto Snapchat.

Select Friends

This setting allows users to look through their friend list and then decide which of their friends they want to be able to view their location. This setting gives users the opportunity to control who can view their location.

Changing settings

When first opening the Snap Map users get to make a decision of who they want to be able to view their location. Once these settings are in place they can always be changed in Snapchat's settings. This can be done in two ways:

In the Snapchat settings

- In the Snapchat screen click on the Settings (cog) icon> click on 'see my location' > Choose the setting which suits you.
- On the Snap Map
- Click on the setting button in the top right of the map > choose the setting which suits you.

We want all of our children to be safe when online and to know how to use it responsibly. They often know more than we do as adults but please remember that there is a lot of useful and important information available on the school website on the 'e safety' tab.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Peter Allen Headteacher