

# Online Safety Monthly

March 2026

Alongside our regular online safety posters, this newsletter addresses digital trends we're seeing within our school. Each month, we'll spotlight one app with practical steps to help you navigate your child's online world.

## App Spotlight:



## Snapchat

Age Rating: 13+ (App Store/Google Play).

A messaging app where photos and videos (Snaps) usually disappear after being viewed. It features creative filters, a "Snap Map" for location, and "Stories" for 24-hour updates.

Snapchat is popular because it feels private, but it's easy for strangers to find accounts if settings aren't locked down.

## Key Concerns

- Viewing content that is not age appropriate
- Location sharing (via Snap Map)
- Cyberbullying
- Contact from Strangers
- Excessive screen time
- Disappearing messages lead to more risky behaviour

Our Safety Rating:   
Use with supervision

## Parental Controls

- Download Snapchat: You must have your own account to link to your child's.
- Add Your Child: Search for their username and add them as a friend.
- Open Family Centre: Tap your Profile Icon > Settings (Gear Icon).
- Scroll to Privacy Controls and tap Family Centre.
- Invite your child. Once they accept, you can see their friends list and who they have messaged (but you cannot see the messages themselves).
- Check Content: Use the Content Controls toggle in the Family Centre to restrict sensitive or "suggested" content.
- Ensure your child knows how to block and report other users and activate *Ghost Mode* to hide their location.

## New for 2026

Arrival Notifications: Child can set an alert to notify a parent automatically when they arrive at a destination (like school or home). It's like a "text me when you're there" button that does it for them.

Trust Signals: When your child adds a new friend, Snapchat now shows you how they know them (e.g., "shared 5 mutual friends" or "in their phone contacts").

While parental controls provide a helpful safety net, the best approach is to have an open and honest conversation with your child about their digital world. This helps you understand how they are using the app and ensures they feel comfortable coming to you if something goes wrong.



Scan for more information about Snapchat's Family Centre



Scan for a detailed ParentZone article about Snapchat

