Introducing 'Snap Maps' – Understanding the risks and concerns relating to this app

The social media app Snapchat has introduced a new feature known as **Snap Map**. Sharing locations can be a risky thing to do as people you do not know may be able to make contact or see what you have posted. Snap Maps allows users to see where in the country their Snapchat contacts are, as well as seeing location based photos and videos. The Snap Map shows a user's Bitmoji, their cartoon avatar within Snapchat, pinpointed on a world map. Users can then zoom into the map to see the exact location of their friends.
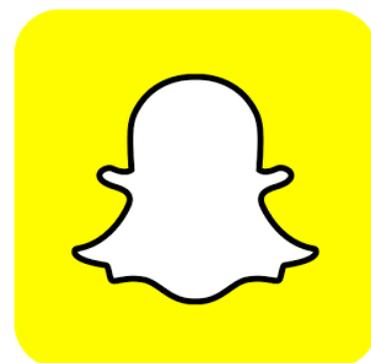
Our top tips for children for location sharing are:

- Only share your location with people you know in person. Never share your location with strangers.
- Don't add contacts to Snapchat if you don't know them in person.
- Regularly review your settings and take an active decision about whether you want people to know your location. Remember you can switch this off at any time. Think about where you're sharing your location. Location services such as Snap Maps can lead people to your house. Think about what times you're on the app and whether these are locations you want to share – if not, then turn this off within your settings.

What to do if you have a concern or worry

If someone has a negative online experience or are looking for support there are a number of organisations that can help.

- The NSPCC provides advice and support to parents, carers and other adults and can be contacted on 0808 800 5000 or help@nspcc.org.uk.
- Children and young people can contact Childline on 0800 1111 or.
- Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) and for young people visit Think U know

It's important to speak with your Designated Safeguarding lead and follow your organisations processes. If a child does disclose concerns you should contact North Yorkshire Customer Resolution Center on 01609 780780 for further advice and support. If you are concerned a crime may have been committed you should also contact North Yorkshire Police on 101.

How to access Snap Maps

To access the Snap Map in the latest update of the Snapchat app, users need to go to their camera screen within Snapchat and zoom out using two fingers. This will then launch the Snap Maps screen and will allow a user to see their friend's locations.

Choose who can see your location

It is important to be careful about who you share your location with, as it can allow people to build up a picture of where you live, go to school and spend your time.

Given how specific this new feature is on Snapchat - giving your 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 your location on the map but what do they mean?

- **Ghost Mode** - This 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** - This 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.

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB) Training:

The NYSCB offers an extensive e-learning suite in addition to our face to face courses. We would like to draw to your attention the **'E-Safety – Guidance for Practitioners'** e-learning course.

The E-safety course explores safeguarding risks that are associated with the internet and other forms of modern technology. This course helps you understand the different ways children and young people use technology and how this can make them vulnerable.

Book online at: https://nyscb.safeguardingchildrenea.co.uk

To find out more information about Snap Maps visit Snapchat.

The information within this briefing has been adapted from Childnet.

Why not keep up to date with Safeguarding Children Developments by visiting
www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk

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