



# Safeguarding for Snapchat



## What is it?

an app to exchange user-generated photos, texts, videos, and calls.

## Age restriction:

**13 and over** but no age verification.

## Great for:

- Fun **photo and video filters**, geofilters, and live chats.
- The **discover** feature keeps users updated with news, brands, and their favourite celebrities.
- You can create **stories** of photos and videos.
- **The disappearing act** - default settings automatically delete messages and photos once viewed.

## How can you make it safer?

- Snapchat is for keeping in touch with close friends and family, so **decline requests from strangers**.
- **Use Ghost Mode** to always keep user location private on the Snap Map. Expectations can be made for particularly close friends and family.
- Keep account settings **private** to restrict who can make contact and view stories.
- **Immediately report** inappropriate content within the app.
- Users should **block connections who make them uncomfortable or who they don't know**.
- Encourage young people to **think about what they send**.
- Let them show you the app and **ask questions**; who are they talking to? What filters do they use? What platforms are they following on Discover?

## Risks:

- **Snaps can be screenshot**, captured off another device, or someone may use third party apps to record snaps, so users should be cautious of what they send.
- **Any user can add anyone else as a 'friend'**: users can't receive a Snap unless a friend request is accepted but it just takes one click.
- **Unwanted or explicit messages or photos** are a risk on most platforms but the disappearing nature of Snaps means that, while users can report to Snapchat, evidence of verbal or sexual harassment won't be immediately accessible to parents, guardians, or police.
- Snap Map will show a connection's **live location** if Ghost Mode isn't switched on, a particular risk if users are connecting with those they don't know well.