



Keeping Your Child Safe on Snapchat

Guidance for Godwin
Parents and Carers

Introduction

Guidance for Parents and Carers

At Godwin Primary School, we do not recommend that children use Snapchat. The app is designed for users aged 13 and over and is therefore not suitable for primary-aged children.

We understand, however, that some parents and carers may choose to let their child use it. If that is the case, this guide outlines what Snapchat is, its features and how you can help to keep your child safe online.

If you need any help or advice about online safety or any internet-related issue, please ask.

Mr. Wade



What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app where users share photos, videos, and messages that disappear once viewed. It includes features such as Stories, Snap Maps, Spotlight, and AI chat tools.



App Overview

Snapchat allows users to share photos and videos.



Things to Watch Out For

Disappearing Messages

Many children believe that Snapchat's disappearing messages mean their content is safe. However, these messages can be captured through screenshots, leading to potential misuse and lasting impacts.

Inappropriate Content

Snapchat includes a wide range of content, and some of it may not be appropriate for younger users. It is a good idea for parents and carers to stay involved in what their child is viewing and discuss how to stay safe online.

Contact from Strangers

Snapchat allows users to connect easily, which means children could be contacted by people they do not know. This can lead to unsuitable conversations or unwanted attention online.

Pressure to Maintain Streaks

Children may feel pressured to keep up their "Streaks," which are created when two people send each other a photo or video every day on Snapchat. The longer they keep it going, the higher the streak number becomes. This can make children feel they have to use the app every day so they do not lose their streak, which can lead to more screen time and unnecessary pressure.

Snap Maps Risks

The Snap Maps feature shows a user's location to their friends on Snapchat. If it is turned on, children may share where they are without realising it. This can raise safety concerns, so it is best to keep location sharing turned off or limited to trusted friends.



Safety Recommendations

If parents or carers decide to allow their child to use Snapchat, we strongly recommend that safety settings are reviewed and updated regularly:

Privacy Settings

Adjusting privacy settings ensures that only approved friends can see your child's content, helping to protect their profile from unwanted attention and maintain a safe social environment.

Family Centre

Set up the Family Centre to monitor your child's activity on Snapchat, allowing for open discussions about their interactions and ensuring they are using the app safely and responsibly.

Ghost Mode

Activate Ghost Mode on Snap Maps to prevent others from seeing your child's location, providing an extra layer of security and helping to keep their whereabouts private.

Report & Block

Encourage your child to use the report and block features if they encounter inappropriate content or feel uncomfortable, empowering them to take control of their Snapchat experience and ensure safety.

Device Controls

You can use the built-in settings on your child's device to help manage how long they spend on Snapchat and when they can use it. Setting clear limits can encourage healthy screen time habits and prevent the app from becoming a distraction. These controls also help you stay involved in your child's online activity, making sure they use Snapchat in a more balanced and supervised way.

Godwin Online Safety Rules

 <p>use the internet with an adult's permission</p>	 <p>turn the screen off (if I see something that makes me sad or uncomfortable)</p>	 <p>go on adult approved websites</p>	 <p>tell an adult (if I see something that makes me sad or uncomfortable)</p>
 <p>To stay safe online I should.....</p>			
 <p>be kind online</p>	 <p>never give out passwords or personal information</p>	 <p>never meet an online friend in real life</p>	 <p>don't open messages/files/emails from people I don't know</p>

At Godwin, our children are taught to follow our online safety rules.

These are helpful to use at home too.

Click on the poster to download a copy of it.



Online Safety Resources

Click on the links below for additional information and support:

Mr Wade's Online Safety Page

Mr Wade's Online Safety page provides clear, practical advice to help parents and children stay safe online. It includes useful tips, guidance, and resources designed specifically for our school community.

Childnet

Childnet helps make the internet safer for children. Their website offers practical advice, videos, and guides to help parents and carers understand online risks and support their child to use the internet safely and responsibly.

NSPCC – Snapchat guide

The NSPCC provides comprehensive resources on online safety and Snapchat, including guidance on protecting children from potential risks.

UK Safer Internet Centre

The UK Safer Internet Centre offers advice and resources for parents and children alike, aiming to promote a safer online experience through education and awareness of online risks.

Internet Matters – Snapchat guide

Internet Matters offers clear, trusted advice to help parents guide their children's online activity and build healthy digital habits. It includes detailed information about popular apps like Snapchat, helping families understand the risks, adjust privacy settings, and keep children safe while using them.



