

NMT

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Dear Parents and Carers

### **Snapchat: information update**

I am writing to inform you of a recent update to the way that the mobile app, *Snapchat*, works for its users.

The app now features a new map function called Snap Map. This means that any user can be identified by their exact location at any time.

This update is of course a serious concern for the safeguarding of our young people. Surrey Police have issued a statement encouraging all users to change the settings on the app to 'Ghost Mode', which prevents the user's location from being shared.

Please ensure you discuss this with your child at home as appropriate. If they use the app, they may not be aware of the risks that come with allowing other users to track their movements to the precise location, including their home address.

### **How to switch off the map function:**

- When in photo-taking mode, pinch the screen to open Snap Map
- Tap the settings cog in the top right corner of the screen
- Tap "Ghost Mode" to switch off location sharing
- Photos and videos posted to *Snapchat's* public 'Our Story' will still be discoverable on the map

Thank you for your continued support with ensuring young people have access to the information needed to keep themselves safe online.

If you see anything specific that worries you about your child's safety online, please do not hesitate to contact the Police on 101. If you have any questions or would like to seek further support from school, please contact your child's Achievement Co-Ordinator who will be able to advise you further.

Yours faithfully

*N Moffatt*

Ms N Moffatt  
Assistant Headteacher

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