

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**RE: Safety Advice / Concerns for SnapChat users**

Dear Parent / Guardian

Asalamualaykum,

I pray that this letter reaches you in the best of health and sincerest of Iman

SnapChat is a social media app, which is used regularly by many children and young people; it launched a new feature last week, which we have been made aware of. This is called SnapMaps, and allows users to see the location of their contacts, and accurately pinpoint where they are. It is so detailed that if you zoom in you can even see the street location. This obviously raises safety and safeguarding concerns for pupils who use the app. There are three possible privacy settings:

- Ghost mode, where only you can see your position;
- My Friends mode, where any contact can see your location; and
- Select Friends mode, where just those who you choose can see you

ChildNet have posted a thorough explanation of SnapMaps and how to ensure users stay safe. This can be found at:

<http://www.childnet.com/blog/introducing-snap-maps-the-new-location-sharing-feature-in-snapchat>

We recommend that all parents read this advice and have a chat with their daughter regarding online safety and the use of, and dangers of, social media, in particular SnapChat.

Many pupils tend to import all their casual contacts when they set up their SnapChat so unless they or you check their settings it is possible that random strangers will now see an accurate location. As a matter of urgency, we would ask all parents to check their daughter's SnapChat settings, and strongly advise that the setting 'Ghost mode' is applied so that location isn't shared with friends.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact the school designated safeguarding team.

JazakAllahkhair  
Wasalam

**Miss J Kossar**  
**Designated Safeguarding Lead**