

19.07.22

### **Snapchat – Years 5/6**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The following information is about the social media platform 'Snapchat' which can be accessed via mobile phones and tablets.

Snapchat is an app for sending photos and videos (known as 'Snaps'), and text messages. The 'Stories' feature lets users share photos or videos with all their contacts at once.

Snaps disappear after being opened, usually within seconds. Stories disappear after 24 hours. Images and messages aren't automatically saved on phones.

The **minimum age** to use Snapchat is **13**, but it's easy to sign up if you're younger.

#### **What are the dangers?**

- There is a risk of seeing inappropriate content or online bullying.
- Your child's location could be shared automatically with their contacts.
- There is a risk of children being spoken to by strangers and/or sharing information with them.

#### **What support can be accessed around using Snapchat?**

As the minimum age to use Snapchat is 13, we strongly encourage parents to prevent children from using the app to keep them safe.

If your child uses Snapchat, there is advice for ensuring their safety which can be found on 'The Key' using the following link: <https://parenthub.thekeysupport.com/parent-online-safety-zone/child-safety-snapchat-parent-factsheet.html>

If you have any concerns about your child staying safe online you can share your concerns with our school immediately. You can also contact the NSPCC for advice by calling 0808 800 5000 or emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).

If your child is using a mobile phone or online device, please be alert to any changes in their behaviour as these signs may indicate online issues involving apps.

Miss O'Gorman  
Designated Safeguarding Lead