



Dear Parents/Carers,

At Green Gates Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe learning environment for your children; this also includes internet safety. It is important that our children know how to use the internet safely both in school and at home. Children can access the internet on a range of devices, and in a variety of places, which has led to an increase in sharing information with others. One way for children to share information is through Snapchat. Below is a guide to help you ensure your child is using Snapchat safely.

Yours Faithfully,

Miss Breckon

**What is Snapchat?** Snapchat is a photo and video-sharing app with a twist. The media you send disappear seconds after they're viewed—you get to decide how long a photo will “live,” from 1 to 10 seconds, after it's viewed. The minimum age for using Snapchat is 13.

**How to use Snapchat safely**

**Manage the settings-** Make sure your child is using the default setting which means they can only accept incoming pictures from their friends. To do this access settings and make sure “Who can...” says “My Friends” not “Everyone.” That way, only people your child has added on Snapchat can send you media.

**Protect passwords-** As with all social media, it is important that your child has a strong, unique password. Remind your child not to share their password with anyone, even friends.

**Keeping it real-** Snapchat is a service designed for real life friends. It doesn't enable people to search for new “friends” like some services, but there are still ways to find people you don't know (such as finding their Snapchat username on other services and “adding” them to your Snapchat friends list). Make sure your child is only sharing media with people they know, and discuss the dangers of adding people that they don't know.

**What to do about unwanted snaps**

**Block the user-** Find the users name in your contact list and swipe right across their name on Apple devices or, on Android phones, press and hold on the person's name, then press Edit and then Block—or just Delete if you want them off your list.

**Report abuse-** If a child receives inappropriate photos or videos or someone's harassing him or her, contact Snapchat via [safety@snapchat.com](mailto:safety@snapchat.com) or by going to Snapchat.com and clicking on Support.

**Delete the account-** If Snapchat isn't for you (or your child) you can delete the account by going to [http://www.snapchat.com/a/delete\\_account](http://www.snapchat.com/a/delete_account) as long as you have the user name and password. If you wish to delete the account and your child won't give you their password, you can submit a deletion request at [http://www.snapchat.com/static\\_files/deletion\\_request.pdf](http://www.snapchat.com/static_files/deletion_request.pdf)

To find out more about using Snapchat safely visit [http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/snapchat\\_guide.pdf](http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/snapchat_guide.pdf)



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