

# Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

(Ages specified in terms as of 2014)



27<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been brought to my attention that Snapchat has released a new update that could affect the safety of your children. Although the Terms and Conditions state that you must be 13 to use the app (along with Instagram and Facebook) we are aware that some children are regularly using the app to communicate with friends.

The new feature in the latest update allows you to view the exact location of your friends. It can give you the area, town and street and if you zoom in enough, it shows the house on the street layout.

If you or your child is using Snapchat, please check if this feature is active and if so, that they have their location set to 'Ghost mode'. That way no one can see where they are.

To do this, make sure the app is the updated version and go to selfie mode on the camera. Then zoom out. It will give you the option of changing who can see your location.

As well as 'real' friends that users are linked to, many will also have 'friended' fan accounts for celebrities - they will also see your location and there is no way to be sure there is a genuine person behind that account.

The legal age of using this app is 13 so no Primary aged child should have access to it. Please check your settings and those of any children you have.

Miss Griffiths  
ICT co-ordinator

