



## Elton Primary School & Nursery

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Our Ref: PARL0600

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Dear Parents,

Below is a lot of information shared with us by Cheshire Police to help us to support you and your children in keeping safe online.

### **Safer Schools & Young People Partnership News:**

#### **On-Line Safety Message**

Cheshire police are investigating an INSTAGRAM account named 'funonly94' following multiple reports in the past 2 weeks from concerned parents of year 7 pupils at a local high School. The images that this account is sending and the content being discussed is highly inappropriate. Parents are asked to speak to Children about their Instagram Usage and remind them of principles of staying safe online. If the account is found on their child's Instagram Account, it is suggested that it is Blocked and Reported to Instagram. Parents are reminded that there is an 'Age restriction' for an Instagram account of 13 Years.

#### **Drug Message**

I want to bring to your attention to some recent incidents involving teenagers becoming seriously ill from taking drugs in neighbouring counties, in particular MDMA. MDMA, sometimes referred to as ecstasy, which comes in the form of a pill and can have significant risks, often leaving people hospitalised. Recent incidents in the Wirral and Greater Manchester saw dealers apparently targeting teenagers, so I am asking you all to consider having conversations with both pupils and parents to inform and remind them of the dangers of taking drugs and to think twice. Not only is buying and selling drugs illegal they are extremely dangerous and can also have devastating results. Although there have been no reported incidents in Cheshire it is important that children are made aware of the serious implications and to inform their parents or their teachers if they notice any suspicious drug taking. If anyone is offered drugs or witnesses somebody giving them to children I would urge them to contact Cheshire Police immediately on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111. For more information about drug use visit [Frank](#)

### **Last week Snapchat introduced a new feature, the 'Snap Map'.**



This location based map allows users to see where in the country their Snapchat contacts are, as well as seeing location based photos and videos. The Snap Map shows a user's Bitmoji, their cartoon avatar within Snapchat, pinpointed on a world map. Users can then zoom into the map to see the exact location of their friends.

### **How to access Snap Maps**

To access the Snap Map in the latest update of the Snapchat app, users need to go to their camera screen within Snapchat and zoom out using two fingers. This will then launch the Snap Maps screen and will allow a user to see their friend's locations.

Choose who can see your location

It is important to be careful about who you share your location with, as it can allow people to build up a picture of where you live, go to school and spend your time.

Given how specific this new feature is on Snapchat - giving your location to a precise pinpoint on a map - we would encourage users not to share their location, especially with people they don't know in person.

There are three settings for sharing your location on the map, these are; Ghost mode, My Friends, and Select Friends. But what do these settings mean?

#### **Ghost Mode**

Ghost Mode means that you are the only person who can see your location on the map.

Within Ghost Mode you can still see the locations of your friends but they will be unable to see you.

This setting will ensure that you have complete control over who knows your location.

#### **My Friends**

My Friends means that all of your contacts on Snapchat can see your location. If turning on this setting then it would be important for users to review their Snapchat contacts and also make sure that they never add someone they don't know in person onto Snapchat.

#### **Select Friends**

This setting allows users to look through their friend list and then decide which of their friends they want to be able to view their location. This setting gives users the opportunity to control who can view their location.

Changing settings

When first opening the Snap Map users get to make a decision of who they want to be able to view their location. Once these settings are in place they can always be changed in Snapchat's settings.

This can be done in two ways:

### **In the Snapchat settings**

In the Snapchat screen click on the Settings (cog) icon> click on 'see my location' > Choose the setting which suits you

On the Snap Map

*Top tips*

Sharing location can be a risky thing to do. Our tips for location sharing are:

- Only share your location with people you know in person. Never share your location with strangers.
- Don't add contacts to Snapchat if you don't know them in person.
- Regularly review your settings and take an active decision about whether you want people to know your location. Remember you can switch this off at any time. Think about where you're sharing your location. Location services such as Snap Maps can lead people to your house. Think about what times you're on the app and whether these are locations you want to share – if not, then turn this off within your settings.



Please visit the below for further advice and guidance:

UK Safer Internet Centre : <https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/introducing-%E2%80%98snap-maps%E2%80%99-new-location-sharing-feature-snapchat>

<https://techcrunch.com/2017/06/21/snap-map/>

<http://www.childnet.com/blog/introducing-snap-maps-the-new-location-sharing-feature-in-snapchat>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/40415706>

### **Video guide to Musical.ly**

Last week **Channel 4 News** reported on children as young as nine being groomed and bombarded with explicit messages on the popular social media app Musical.ly.

But what exactly is the app and what risks does it pose to young people who use it? In this **Video Guide to Musical.ly** you will learn about what the app does, how it leaves young people vulnerable to being groomed and how you can better protect children who use this app. [Watch Now!](#)

### **Roblox - a guide for parents**

Cheshire Police Education Officer, Tom, looks at the popular gaming site Roblox and gives top tips for parents wanting to help young people stay safe whilst gaming on Roblox. [Posted on the Childnet blog 8th June 2017.](#)

### **O2 NSPCC Community Events**

We have registered our interest for the O2 NSPCC team to deliver online safety workshops to parents in November – please watch out for more information nearer to the time.

I hope that this information will help you to protect not just your children but also the older children you may know, family members and also yourselves!

Yours faithfully,

Victoria

