

**Privacy settings and
location tracking
on
Social Media**

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Snapchat warning issued after 14-year-old girl is repeatedly approached by four men

Co-founder of PAGUK, William Howarth, said: "Her family were confused as to how the group knew her name and location, and how they showed up after she left her friends.

"They checked her Snapchat maps, and were shocked at how many young children have their location shared, especially when they do not know some of the people they have added.

"The 14-year-old is luckily very brave and gave all info to police. This time there was not a nasty ending, but this may not be the case next time.

"This app is dangerous: the fact the default setting is set to show your location is ludicrous. The default should be set not to and set only if you require the feature.

Source: <https://www.rochdaleonline.co.uk/news-features/2/news-headlines/115268/snapchat-warning-issued-after-14yearold-girl-is-repeatedly-approached-by-four-men>

Apps and your data

- When you download an app or sign up to web service you accepted their terms and conditions. And they can do whatever they want with your data, including:-
 - Sharing your information with 3rd parties
 - Use it to offer you targeted marketing
 - Track your location
- It is important to know what data you're giving away and what the implications are.

Practical app advice

- Turn off location tracking – that means an app is only allowed to track you whilst your using that app.
- Be careful downloading apps, only download from official app stores. Updating regularly will not only get you better features, you will also get the latest security patches.
- Delete old apps not being using anymore including the accounts associated with them, ensuring to delete all data in the process.

Snapchat



- Don't add people you don't know
- Change settings so only friends can send you Snaps
- Turn on 'ghost mode'
- Block and report contacts if they send you content that makes you feel uncomfortable
- Send snaps for 1 second to limit chances of snap being saved via a screen shot

Facebook



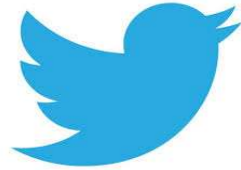
- Check that your privacy settings are set to the strictest levels.
- Depending on the browser you are using, you can adjust the settings from the options tab and adjust levels around cookies, third party sites and more. This not only protects the computer user, but also the computer from the threat of viruses. Checking your Facebook privacy settings is easy as well.
- New users who declare in their profile that they are aged between 13 and 18 will have a default privacy setting which means their content is only shared with friends.
- Ensure any existing accounts are also only set to share with friends

Instagram



- Make sure accounts are private.
- If people post photos or video make you feel uncomfortable you can unfollow or block them.
- Make sure you're comfortable letting the photos and videos you share represent who you are to a wide audience, such as your parents, teachers or employers.

Twitter



- Set account to private
- Block / mute and report problem accounts
- Avoid language you don't want to see by blocking specific words
- Turn safe search on
- Make sure you're comfortable letting the photos and videos you share represent who you are to a wide audience, such as your parents, teachers or employers

Helpful hints

- Create ground rules
- Check privacy settings regularly
- Get to know your child's habits
- Keep the computer in a central location
- Avoid free giveaways, questionnaires and competitions
- Monitor the pictures your child posts online
- Set a good example yourself on social media
- Get to know the technology
- Talk to your children about online dangers/reputation
- Use filtering software

Useful Links

Specific Apps / Websites How to Guides

https://about.twitter.com/en_us/safety.html

<https://www.snapchat.com/safety>

<https://www.facebook.com/safety/parents>

<https://help.instagram.com/154475974694511>

General Advice

<http://www.connectsafely.org/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/>

Snapchat Guide for Parents



Snapchat has been identified as the most popular social media app being used amongst our pupils.

Therefore we have put together a comprehensive guide explaining what it is capable of and how to stay safe.

Please collect one your way out.