

Online Safety Newsletter

Snapchat: age13+

Snapchat is a popular messaging app that allows you to send images and videos to other users. These are known as 'Snaps'. One of Snapchat's unique selling points is that messages are normally only available for a short period of time and can only be viewed once.

What age-rating is Snapchat?

The platform is rated 13+.

How does Snapchat work?

The platform mainly operates as a messaging app where users can communicate with each other using videos and images. However, there are also other features available including private chat, games, and voice notes. You can also create short videos that can be posted to a public feed.

Help and guidance for parents/carers:

[The Pros and Cons of Snapchat on Kids' Mental Health](#)

[Is Snapchat safe for my child?](#)

[Snapchat privacy settings](#)

Reporting Harmful Content

The conflict in Israel that is currently being covered across the entire world will understandably be causing a lot of upset and concern for many individuals right now. With distressing events taking place, many online platforms are seeing a shift in the types of content being shared, not just from adults, but from children and young people as well. Scenarios showing real-world harm can be extremely distressing and can unfortunately incite other toxic behaviours such as abuse, racism, violence and threats online.

It is important that support is provided during this time, allowing safe spaces to talk through any concerns with young people. With so much content that is potentially harmful online, parents also need to be aware of current reporting routes that are available.

If you have seen or encountered something online that is harmful, visit [Report Harmful Content](#) to get advice on how best to report content.

Safer Internet Day 2024

The theme for next month's Safer Internet Day which falls on Tuesday 6th February 2024 is 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.

We will be holding our annual assembly for all year groups next week. Further information on the theme can be found [here](#).



Digital Wellbeing

Digital wellbeing and mental health can be closely linked, so it's important to check that your child's use of technology and the internet is benefiting their mental health. With the next school holiday around the corner, there will be many young people using devices and spending more time online generally. Various situations may have an impact on your child's mental wellbeing, both positively and negatively, and you can explore further guides and advice on many potential situations on the Childnet website in their help & advice section for 11–18-year-olds [here](#).

Starting the conversation

Talking regularly with your child can help keep them safe online. Making it part of daily conversation, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed.

It also means when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.

[NSPCC– Every childhood is worth fighting for](#)