November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Online Safety Update

I'm writing to introduce myself as our school's new Online Safety Coordinator and share how we can work together to keep your children safe online. My role is to help students understand online risks and how to navigate the digital world safely. I'll also work closely with our Safeguarding and Pastoral teams to help tackle issues such as cyberbullying, or online peer or peer abuse via social media. Throughout the year, I'll keep in touch with updates and practical guidance so you can make informed decisions and help protect your child online.

We have launched our new Online Safety Centre, found under the "Statutory Information" tab at www.stocksbridgehigh.co.uk. This is your one-stop shop for resources, advice and useful links.

We've also partnered with Knowsley CLCs to bring you a monthly Online Safety Newsletter. The November edition is included with this letter and on our Online Safety Centre. Alongside this, I will share guidance based on feedback from our Safeguarding and Pastoral teams to address issues relevant to our community.

Snapchat – What Parents/Carers need to know

An app used by a large quantity of students (and adults), Snapchat is built around quick & casual media sharing. The images, called "Snaps", are designed to disappear after being viewed and the app is often used to share moments with a "Friends" list through:

1. Direct snaps: photos or videos sent privately to individuals or groups
2. Stories: Posts that stay visible for 24 hours to all friends

Why this matters
- Snaps disappear, so children may feel less cautious about what they share. Screenshots can make temporary content permanent.
- Snap Map can share a child's location with all their Snapchat friends if enabled. If they tap 'My Friends,' everyone on their list can see where they are - even people they don't know well.

What can you do to safeguard your child's privacy when using Snapchat?
Quick check: Turn on ghost mode → Review friends lists → Talk about privacy

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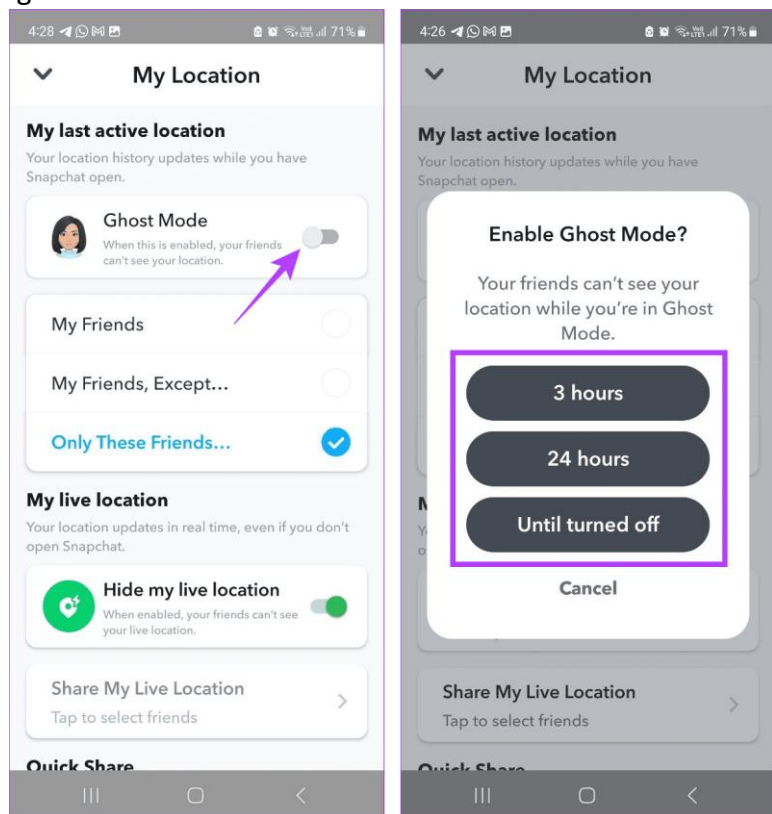**Turn on Ghost Mode - Ensure locations are only shared with trusted adults**

It's easy to check and change these settings:

1. Open Snapchat
2. Tap the map icon
3. Then find the gear icon at the top of the map screen ⚙️
4. Ensure **Ghost Mode** is ON and stays on until turned off.
   This will mean their location is hidden from everyone by default, unless specifically turned on for a specific contact from the Snapchat friends list.

Review "Friend" lists
Encourage your child to only add people they know in real life.

Discuss privacy: Explain the implications of sharing their location widely can be dangerous.

If you can, please take a few minutes to check your child's Snapchat settings together using the steps above – it's a great way to start a conversation about online safety. If you would like any support with this or other online safety-related issues, I am here to help and can be contacted on our new dedicated email address below.

We know online safety can feel overwhelming, and we're here to make it easier for you.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Schuller,
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