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**Head of School
Mr S Warrell BA (Hons), PGCE**

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Dear Parents,

I would like to draw your attention to a recent addition to the SnapChat App, called Snap Maps. This feature uses the phones GPS function / Mobile signal to identify the location of users on a map. Whilst I am not totally sure how it exactly works, it would appear that the location of the user is then shared with all of their friends. I am led to believe that the Snap Map functionality activates automatically and therefore could be tracking your child without them knowing.

Obviously, if your child has SnapChat, this does have safeguarding implications as it has the potential to allow perpetrators or bullies to track a user's location at any given time. Monitoring of a user's location for a period of time is likely to identify where they live, where they go to school and the route of the journey between the two places.

A few suggestions:

- The legal age for using SnapChat is 13 – your children should not be using this App.
- If you chose to allow them to use this App, it is your responsibility to check their use, this should include who they are friends with. If they have friends that they do not know out of the online world, I would advise they are deleted.
- Set the Snap Map feature to Ghost Mode, this will ensure your child is not visible to other users.

I hope this advice will help you to keep your child safe.

Kind regards,

Stephen Warrell.

