



Castle Hill Primary School

'Building Independence, Broadening Horizons, Brightening Futures'



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E-safety Newsletter - July 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

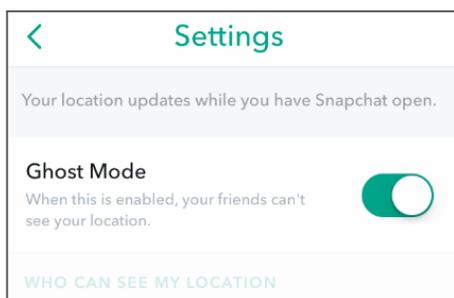
There's no getting away from it; children nowadays spend more time than ever on devices, communicating or playing games with their friends. We have to remember that a great deal of what they get up to on devices is a new form of socialising. However it's important that as adults (particularly when considering primary school-aged children) we need to be in control of the content they access and who they communicate with.

At Castle Hill we educate our pupils about many aspects of e-safety, including how to communicate sensibly and kindly and also what constitutes personal information. Please see attached leaflet which has helpful tips for keeping your child e-safe at home.

In the last month, several apps have either grown in popularity or have received new updates which compromise the user's security.

Snapchat - Location Sharing.

Firstly Snapchat is an age 13+ app. New update means users are automatically sharing their locations with 'friends'. Users' locations are clearly shown by an avatar on a map, which poses serious issues for child users.



Please ensure your child is only friends with those they personally know and that the app is set to ghost mode.



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WhatsApp - Keeping tabs on your child's activity.

Firstly, WhatsApp's recommended age is 13+. It is a messaging app which links directly to the user's mobile phone number and sometimes a photograph. Should your child be using WhatsApp, please be aware that group chat can accommodate up to 100 people and the person who originally set up the group is the only user who can add / change participants. Therefore, it's possible they could see or be contacted by someone they don't know and could be vulnerable to content posted by this person.



WhatsApp

Advice: Although a user cannot control who adds them to a group chat, they can always control their own participation within it - they can leave whenever they want to. It's a good idea to advise your child that if they are in a group chat with someone they don't know and are uncomfortable with, they should exit the group and speak to you about it.

There is a range of other apps we are concerned about however, so as to not highlight these, we will email these out (including parents' advice) separately.

In the meantime, please talk to your children about the message 'If you wouldn't say it in person, don't say it online.' We would also advise that children's phones and other devices are removed at bedtime.

Should you have any more specific concerns, please don't hesitate to contact myself.

Paul Hobbs
E-safety lead



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