

## Snap Maps

In June 2017 Snapchat updated its app to include a new feature called Snap Maps. It allows users to show their location on a map which other users can view. There are fears that children can share their location with strangers using the app.

There is an ability to turn on a 'Ghost Mode' which enables users to hide their avatar on the map.

The process to do this is as follows:

Open Snapchat and go onto your camera screen

- Pinch the screen or do a zoom out finger motion on the screen and Snap Map will open.
- You should see your bitmoji icon on the screen.
- To turn on 'Ghost Mode', go to the home screen and click on the settings symbol (top right on screen)
- There are also other settings where you can make you bitmoji available to 'my friends' or 'select friends'

Not familiar with Snapchat? Check out: [www.lifewire.com/snapchat-travels-3485994](http://www.lifewire.com/snapchat-travels-3485994)

## More from Snapchat: Snapstreaking

Snapchat is probably the most popular app with 11-16 year olds, with 25% of all internet users having downloaded it., although younger users are now interested too.

A Snapstreak is achieved when two people send Snaps back and forth on Snapchat for a consecutive number of days. In order to keep a streak going, you've got to send a Snap back and forth to a friend within a 24-hour window. And yes, you've got to do it every single day.

And just so you know where you are with the streak, Snapchat displays your 'streakcount' and a flame emoji next to your friend's name. Special emojis appear when your streak has reached a significant score. An extremely long streak will earn you a mountain emoji. And there's even a sand timer emoji to remind you to snap as you approach the 24 hour deadline each day.

Snapchat users can invest a lot of time in keeping a streak going. The longest Snapchat streak recorded so far was 715 days! At its most harmless it is a form of entertainment but a long streak also carries value. Streaks are seen as a measure of how good your friendship is, of how popular you are. The more streaks Snapchatting teens have the more socially acceptable they feel.

The question for parents, carers and teachers is, of course, is this something else we should worry about? For many users, streaking is all good clean fun but it can be stressful. #Imagine having to remember every day! Even if you are ill, on holiday; every single day!

And teens have reported feeling devastated when a long running streak has failed – if your friend has allowed a streak to fail then maybe they don't like you any more – it's a huge social snub. And if you are the one who failed to send that all important Snap, will your friend think you don't like them anymore? Will they be cross with you for ending the streak? The NSPCC has received a number of calls from children saying that they have been upset by a Snapchat streak. One girl explained that she no wifi that day so she couldn't send one to her friend and was scared because she thought her friend might think she didn't like them anymore!

## Musical.ly

This is a very popular app with 8-12 year olds. It is a social network for sharing user-generated music videos. You can upload your own videos, remix others' work, or browse content created by other users and by more famous recording artists.

Reported issues include:

Use of swearing and profanity (many popular music tracks include explicit language – the tracks uploaded to Musical.ly generally aren't the sanitised 'radio ply' versions), skimpy clothing and sexually provocative dancing. Basically, if 'popular' music artists are singing it, wearing it or twerking it, a child/young person somewhere will be lip-syncing, dressing up and gyrating in that manner. There have been an alarming number of reports of paedophiles exploiting the app to groom children.

Find out more at: [www.internetmatters.org/hub/expert-opinion/musical-ly-app-parents-need-know/](http://www.internetmatters.org/hub/expert-opinion/musical-ly-app-parents-need-know/)