



# St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

## Snapchat

Snapchat is a messaging app used to send photos, videos, text and drawings (called snaps) which disappear after they've been viewed. You should be 13+ to sign up. If you choose to allow your child to have an account then you should be aware of the following:

### Snap Map (sharing their location)

The map lets users see where their friends are if a friend has chosen to share their location at any given time. Location sharing with friends via the map is optional and is off by default (we recommend that this remains the default setting).

### Snapchat streaks

Streaks count how many consecutive days two people have been sending Snaps to each other. A streak is shown by a little picture of a flame and a number (the number of days the streaks has gone on for) next to a contact's name. There can be pressure to respond on a daily basis to maintain their streaks and it can cause issues with people logging into other's account to carry on streaks for friends.

### Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to report any issues with using Snapchat.

### Safety tips and resources

It's really important to talk to your child regularly and make sure that they know that you're always there to talk to if they have any concerns.

## TikTok

### What is TikTok?

Users can watch musical clips, record (up to) 60 second clips, edit them and add special effects.

### Is your child old enough?

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

### Why should I be concerned?

Some of the songs used in this app may contain explicit language and sexual imagery, which may not be suitable for your child to view.

If your child is using TikTok then we recommend setting the account as private. Internet matters explains how to here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/tiktok-privacy-and-safety-settings/>

### Did you know?

Even with a private account, your child's profile information such as their photo and bio is still visible so ensure your child understands the importance of not adding personal information (e.g. address, age and phone numbers).

### Talk to your child

Why does your child use it? What do they like about it? Do they know their followers? What do they like watching on it? Have they ever seen anything that has worried them?

### Family safety mode

This new tool has just been launched by TikTok which when enabled gives you control over your child's safety settings. More information available here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-51561050>

### Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok-everything-you-need-know-about-video-production-app>
- [http://support.tiktok.com/?ht\\_kb=for-parents](http://support.tiktok.com/?ht_kb=for-parents)

1. Set account to private

2. Show them how to report

3. Show them how to block

4. Learn about the app yourself

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.  
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