

Baslow St. Anne's

C of E Primary School

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WARNING! To all Children and Parents and Carers

Details concerning latest dangers to children using Snapchat.

23 June 2017 • 5:01pm - Daily Telegraph

Police forces have raised child safety concerns about a new Snapchat feature that reveals users' locations amid fears it could be used for stalking.

Parents have been warned to turn off "Snap Maps" on their children's phones after Snapchat, which is wildly popular among teenagers, introduced the location-sharing mode this week.

The feature displays a map of nearby friends, showing their latest location gathered using a smartphone's GPS sensor. Users of the app can also search for locations such as individual schools, with the app displaying public photos and videos sent by students.

While the feature is designed to help friends meet up or attend events together it has raised fears that it could be abused. Preston Police said on its Facebook page: "Obviously this may cause concern for certain users, particularly those who have young children who use the app."

A spokesperson for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said: "It's worrying that Snapchat is allowing under 18s to broadcast their location on the app where it can potentially be accessed by everyone in their contact lists.

"With public accounts, this will include those who are not known to the user. This highlights why it's vital children are automatically offered safer accounts on social media to ensure they are protected from unnecessary risks."

The School would particularly direct this warning to the children in Year 5 & 6 who may already be, or may soon be using mobile phone applications to access 'Social Media', 'Chat', 'Instant Communication' and 'Messaging' services on the Internet.

All such applications and services have the inherent risk of allowing personal information to be accessed by other (potentially undesirable) people.

We would strongly advise children of primary school age not to use social media at all, because of the many risks associated with such apps. However, if parents do allow their use, it is vital that safety precautions are taken.

Marie Clark

Headteacher

