

20th September, 2023

Dear Parent /Carer,

We have been alerted to an emerging trend on social media platforms that we feel is necessary to share with you in order to protect your children from online risks and harm.

The concern relates to Snapchat and virtual, AI systems known as 'sex-bots' trying to add children and sharing sexual content with them.

As part of our Personal Development curriculum, we advise all of our students not to accept anyone they do not know in person on any social media platform. However, as parents and carers, we strongly advise that you put parental restrictions on your child's devices, especially for Snapchat. Some methods of vigilance can include:

- Monitoring their phones for the apps that are downloaded
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing.

To restrict content on Snapchat specifically, please follow the following instructions:

Snapchat- Settings- Family Centre- Restrict Sensitive Content

For more information on E-Safety, please visit the NSPCC website:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-snapchat-safe-for-my-child/>

Yours sincerely,

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