



## Police raise child safety warning regarding the Snap Map feature within Snapchat

Police forces have raised child safety concerns about a new Snapchat feature, Snap Map, that reveals users' locations amid fears it could be used for grooming. The app allows you to see your friends' precise location on a map. The location isn't taken from the images you share but is regularly updated from your phone's location whenever the app is open. Snapchat promoted the update as a "new way to explore the world". Users can zoom in to see the exact location revealing the street friends are on and even houses where their friends are, unless they use the ghost mode which means they are the only person who can see their location on the map.



The National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) command has published guidance for parents who want to know more about Snapchat and Snap Map and urges them to talk to their children about being careful whilst socialising online. It advises parents to encourage their children not to share their location publicly and be aware of what they post and who they talk to on social media.

Visit: Think you know, parent and carers guide to Snapchat <http://bit.ly/eSafetySnapchat>

Talk with your child about:

- **the age restriction of 13+ on the Snap Map app**
- **setting the 'Ghost' mode to ensure their location is not visible to others**
- **the importance of only having friends on Snapchat that they know in the real world**

## Roblox – keeping children safe whilst gaming



### What is Roblox?

Childnet describes it as: "a gaming website where multiple players interact and play together in online games. The site has a collection of games aimed at 8-18 year olds; however, players of all ages can use the site and play games together. Roblox can currently be played on the PC, phone, tablet and Xbox One. There is a wide variety of games to choose from; from delivering pizzas, to roaming a kingdom as a medieval knight, to even starring in a fashion show, the variety of games is one of the reasons that Roblox is so popular with many young people."

Childnet goes on to highlight the three key things for parents to be aware of:

- **the chat communication feature of the game**
- **the content of the game could be inappropriate for young children**
- **the risk children could accidentally run up costs whilst playing the game**

For more details, please read the complete guide for parents at:

<http://bit.ly/eSafetyRoblox>

## Monkey App, a new social media app for children

The Monkey app allows children to video chat with new people from all over the world. According to the app producers, 'Users are randomly matched with other users for a brief, introductory video call. When matched with a new person, you can add more time or add the person on Snapchat to continue the connection.'

What do parents need to know:

- **the app gives children the opportunity to talk with strangers via a roulette style video chat**
- **children could come across indecent images or unwanted contact.**
- **rated 12+ in the app store**
- **there are no parental controls on the app**



## Internet Matters app

This is a fun app for parents and children aged between 8-10 years old to play together and help keep children safe online. The app is a great way to have conversations with your child about practical ways to be resilient and have a good time online. The app has eight quiz categories covering topics such as cyberbullying and gaming.

The app can be downloaded for free on the **iTunes app store** and **Google Play store**.

# Reporting online abuse and exploitation to CEOP

(Child Exploitation and Online Protection)



CEOP is a police-led agency tasked to work both nationally and internationally to protect children from online exploitation. If someone has acted inappropriately towards your child online, maybe talked with them in a sexual way or asked them to meet up, then this can be reported to CEOP using the CEOP report button. <http://bit.ly/eSafetyCEOP>

An experienced child protection adviser will be there to make sure you get the right help you need.

## Are you worried your child may see or hear something inappropriate online?

It is important that parents and carers have regular conversations with children about how to keep safe online. Setting parental controls can also help protect young children when they are online.

Parental controls are designed to help parents and carers manage their child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free. However, nothing is totally fool proof and they do not replace the need for adults to support and advise children using the internet.

For detailed guidance on all the different types of control, you can visit the internet matters website. This gives you the chance to set up a personalised list of the controls used in your home on all your different devices. There is also advice on how to use all the various controls, with videos and step-by-step instructions

<http://bit.ly/internetparentalcontrols>

