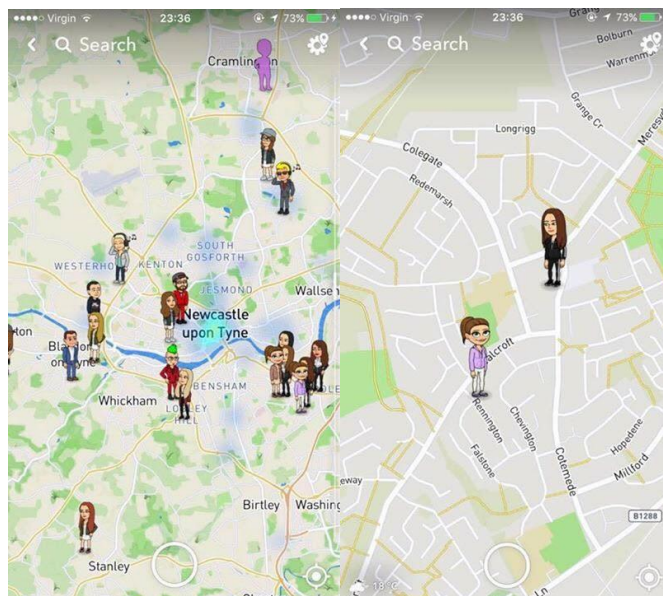




## Snap Map Feature Added to Snapchat

In the last few days Snapchat have released a new update which connects to any phone's GPS, and automatically shows where your child is on a map to anyone who is in their friends list. Posts can be seen publicly depending on user's settings. Users are depicted using a Bitmoji (a caricature image shown below). The update also allows users to upload snaps to 'Your Story' which means anyone can see your child's picture.



The new Snap Map feature allows users to share their location with anyone in their Snapchat contacts. Anyone who is in their contacts list can see your child's location and they can share it with other people your child doesn't know.

Once the Snap Map is enabled, whatever audience users are sharing with can see their location updated, every time they use the app, regardless of whether they send them or anyone else a snap.

Police and the NSPCC have issued warnings about using Snap Map regarding potential risks of this feature and its ability to trace children. The NSPCC have 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."

If you are concerned about this, you just need to prevent Snap Map from broadcasting your child's location and perhaps talking to your children about who they add to their friends list.

### To opt-out of Snap Map

- Go to the Snapchat camera and squeeze your fingers together, as if you're zooming out from a photograph.
- That brings up a map. If you don't see the map settings press the settings icon (a little gear in the upper right corner).
- Select 'Ghost Mode' to completely opt-out of sharing your location. Please note that Ghost Mode is only available if you accepted the recent update of Snapchat since 21 June 2017.

There are many apps which track your child's location, and many phones do too – so you if you wish you can go one step further by disabling Snapchat's ability to access your smartphone's location entirely. Go into your phone's 'Location Services' settings, open the options for Snapchat (and other apps such as Facebook) and turning the "Location" option off.