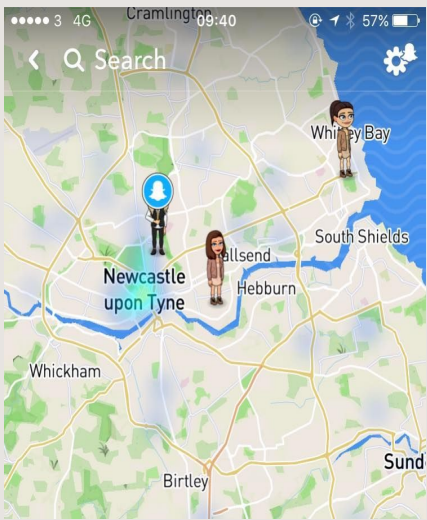




## MERSEYSIDE POLICE CYBER DEPENDANT CRIME UNIT



**Snapmaps** is a feature on Snapchat, which allows Snapchat users to see **exactly** where they are - it is extremely accurate.

Unless you change your privacy settings, anyone can see you **and** any posts you submit to Snapmaps.

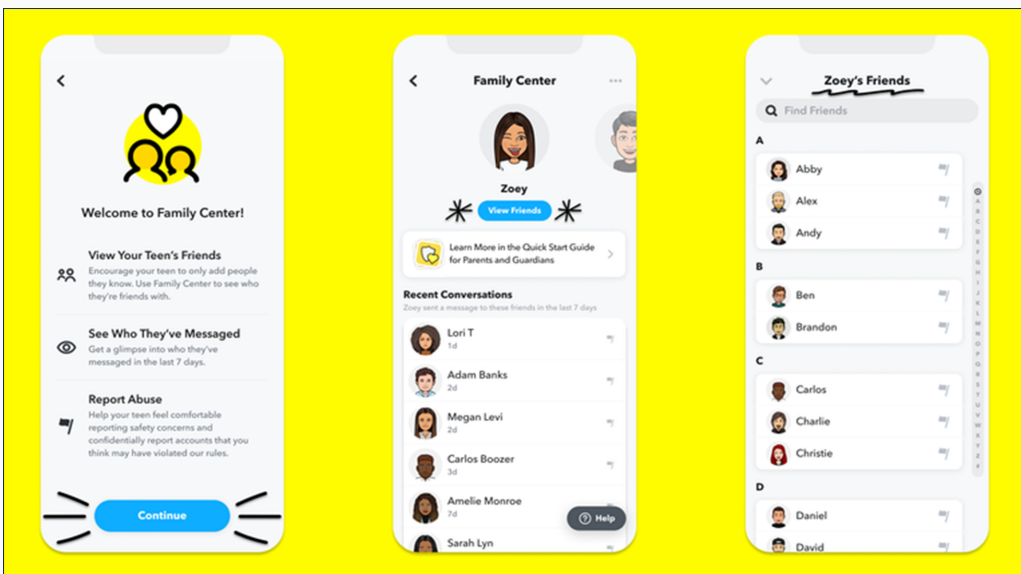
Be sure to check your children's privacy settings and make sure they are not publically visible.

**There was a 25% rise in child abuse image offences recorded by UK police in 2022/23**

Snapchat was involved in almost half (44%) of instances where the online platform was identified by police.

NSPCC  
Rise in child sexual abuse image offences report  
01/03/2024

## THE FAMILY CENTER



The **Family Center** was introduced by Snapchat in August 2022 to enhance Snapchats safeguarding element when it comes to teen accounts.

Snapchat states that their users must be over the age of 13 years, but we know that this does not necessarily mean that the users are over 13.

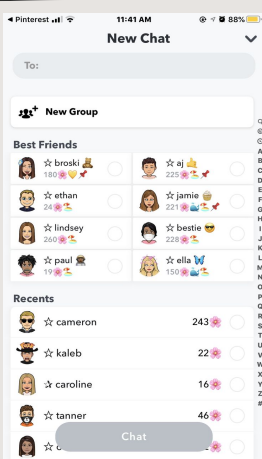
The family center allows a teen user account and a parental user account to be linked. This allows the parental account to view their teens friends, see who they are messaging (you cannot see content of those messages).

[For more on The Family Centre click here](#)

Do you know who your children are **speaking to** on Snapchat?

Their "best friends" will be who they speak to the most. But any of their contacts can see their "stories" and message them.

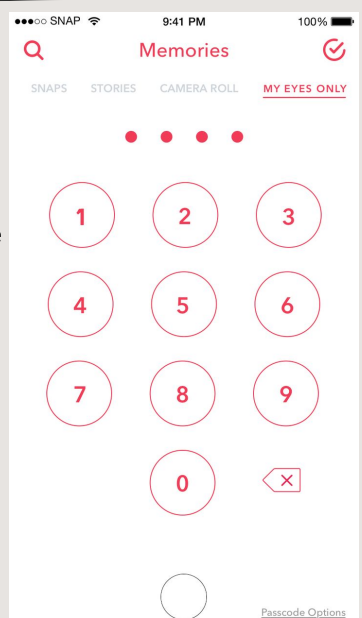
Make sure they only add or accept people **they know**.



"My Eyes Only" is a section of Snapchat where you can save stories or images which are **locked by a passcode** set by the user.

These images are only visible when the passcode is entered, the passcode cannot be recovered by Snapchat.

Investgations have highlighted this is the section where children are saving and storing indecent images of themselves, or other children.



**It is illegal to take, possess or share indecent images' of anyone under age of 18 - Including yourself**