



26 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to you to request your support with a safeguarding update. It has been brought to our attention that students in our area have fallen victim to child sexual exploitation via the Social Media App Snapchat. We kindly ask that you increase vigilance around social media use at this time. As a reminder, most social media applications are for students 13 years and older. Just like interactions in person, online interactions require your supervision and support.

Strategies known to be successful can include:

- Monitoring their phones for the apps that are downloaded
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles (see our parent bulletin here for support on how - <https://www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=7018> )
- 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.

In the next two weeks students in Years 7-11 will receive a Safeguarding Assembly, reminding them about their privacy, settings, putting their location to ghost mode, and thinking about quick ads, and who they 'let in'. We will talk about the idea of letting strangers into our own homes and how Snapchat is no different. We hope that you might support us in reinforcing these messages at home.

Should you or your child have concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Safeguarding Team via [safeguarding@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk) such that we can support you with challenges you may face. Additionally, please access support to report and remove any child images online here <https://www.ivybridge.devon.sch.uk/studentadvice>)

Yours faithfully

Amy Pearce  
**Assistant Principal, Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead**

**Respect ■ Aspiration ■ Integrity ■ Compassion**