



# SHEBBEAR COLLEGE

## SAFEGUARDING UPDATE OCTOBER 2023

### **Snapchat Safeguards for Teens**

Snapchat has unveiled a series of enhancements, focusing on the security of its adolescent audience. Snap, the parent firm, is introducing an array of features and guidelines designed specifically for the protection of users aged 13 to 17.

#### **Major Changes Include:**

- **Enhanced Friend Recommendations:** Snapchat will mandate teen users to share a greater number of mutual connections with someone before they are recommended as a friend or appear in searches. This initiative is designed to discourage teens from connecting with strangers, reinforcing ties with real-life acquaintances.
- **Content Filtering:** A new system will be in place to identify and eliminate content unsuitable for younger audiences, especially in the Stories and Spotlight segments. Immediate actions, such as warnings against the involved accounts, will be taken if inappropriate content is spotted or reported. Consistent violations over a certain timeframe could result in account deactivation.
- **Informative Material:** Snapchat plans to circulate educational material within the app for teen audiences. This content will spotlight online threats like catfishing and financial extortion, offering guidance on identifying and handling such challenges, and sharing resources for additional support.
- **Resources for Parents:** Snap is rolling out a collection of YouTube tutorials and a revamped website to educate parents about the new implementations, as well as Snapchat's overarching approach to teen safety and parental oversight.

With mounting pressures on social media giants to shield young users from unsuitable content, unwanted advances, and other potential hazards, Snapchat's revisions are a proactive move to both equip parents and fortify protective layers for teenagers on the app.

[Snapchat Safeguards for Teens](#)



### **iPad: Essential Safety Enhancements for Your Child's Device**

The latest update includes three pivotal Screen Time features that will be activated on your child's devices, ensuring their utmost safety:

1. **Web Content Restrictions:** This feature shields kids from adult-oriented websites. With the recent update, such sites will be automatically blocked. You retain the flexibility to allow or block any additional sites. Moreover, there's an option allowing only a specific list of sites you deem safe for your child.
2. **Screen Distance:** Safeguarding the visual health of children, this feature combats the risk of myopia by prompting users to adjust their screen's distance if it remains too close for prolonged periods. This is readily available, and automatically enabled, on your child's iPhone or iPad equipped with the TrueDepth camera supporting Face ID.
3. **Communication Safety:** This essential tool identifies and blurs explicit images or videos that might be received or sent by children across various Apple communication platforms. Should any sensitive content be detected, it will be blurred, and your child will receive supportive guidance. It's worth noting that all these assessments are processed on the device, ensuring your child's privacy remains uncompromised, with Apple not accessing the content whatsoever.

To tailor or deactivate any of these features specifically for your child, navigate to: Settings > Family > \*child's name\*> Screen Time on your device.

Your child's digital safety is paramount.

We strongly recommend embracing these enhancements by updating your devices promptly.