



WEST  
VANCOUVER  
SCHOOLS



# Parent's Guide to Snapchat

## General Information

Snapchat is a social media app where people share photos, videos and messages. It also has a location feature and now has AI built in.

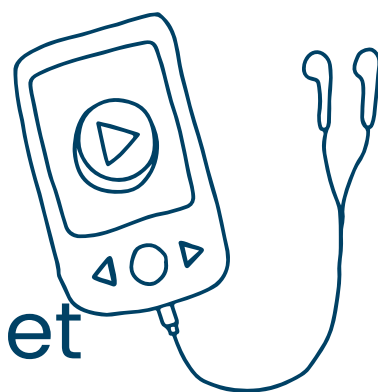
13

Snapchat's own policy states that users must be 13 or older. For a person who is younger than 13 to create a Snapchat account, they have LIED about their age.

Unfortunately, students as young as 10 and 11 years have gotten caught up in cyber- bullying and sexploitation on Snapchat

## Disappearing Snaps

Messages and images (snaps) get deleted after being viewed (or 24 hours after being sent). But there are ways people can screen shot snaps and continue to share around the world.



## "Friends"

People you connect with on Snapchat are called "friends" but the app itself will push you to connect with people you do not know. This is not safe.

## Did You Know?

In Canada, cyberbullying and child pornography can be criminal offenses. If your child participates in either of these, while using Snapchat (or other social media), you, as the parent, can be held liable for what they have done, and be prosecuted by law.



## Snapchat at School

West Vancouver Schools DOES NOT allow students to access SnapChat while using school wifi.



# If your child is under 13

- They SHOULD NOT be using Snapchat
- As soon as they enter school grounds, their phone should be put away and not brought out again until they leave school grounds
- Consider holding off on getting them a phone as long as possible and if you do get them a phone, make sure you establish rules and guidelines over its use.

## Did you know?

- Snapchat has gamified many of its features, in order to appeal to younger users. Snapstreaks and snapscore are two ways to keep kids interested in the app.
- Snapchat is used by drug dealers and sexual predators as a way to “friend” and then access young people.
- Snapmap allows people to show others exactly where they are. This can be dangerous.
- The “Discover” section of Snapchat can expose students to inappropriate content.

## If your child has Snapchat

- Make sure they are old enough to be on it - remember, at least 13!!
- Make sure you are one of their “friends” and monitor their account
- Talk to them about their Snapchat use on a regular basis
- Make sure they know how to block and report users and content
- Familiarize yourself with all of the settings and features then talk to your child about safety and your family values and rules
- Remember, YOU are the adult! If your child is not using their phone safely, you can take it away or shut off their data.