

# Rangatahi discussion guide: A safer Snapchat account

## Keep it private

- **Think before sending** - Anything a teen shares online can be screenshotted, edited and/or re-published without consent.
- **Ask for consent** - Before sharing photos that include other people, it's best practice for teens to respect others' privacy and check for consent.
- **Carefully pick a username** - Your teen's username should never include personal information like age or birthdate.
- **Double-check location sharing** - Location-sharing on the Snapchat Map is off by default for everyone. If your teen is going to turn it on, it should only be used with their trusted friends and family.
- **Review the Snapchat Community Guidelines with your teen.**

## Keep it secure

- **Set up Snapchat securely** - Your teen needs to choose a unique and strong password for their account and activate two-factor authentication.
- **Only connect with family and whānau** - Limiting a teen's Snapchat circle to people known offline is a great way to minimise online communication risks.
- **Sign up with a real age** - Having an accurate birth year is the only way your teen can benefit from Snapchat's age-appropriate safety protections.

## Keep it real

- **Use the Manage Friendship settings** - make sure your teen knows how to mute a story, and block or report harmful accounts.
- **Talk to a trusted adult** - When it comes to safety and well-being, there are no wrong questions or conversations. Help your teen to identify trusted adults and NZ helplines they can speak to if they have any concerns.
- **Create safe spaces** - Advise your teen that if they become uncomfortable in an online space, they can take an offline break and talk to a trusted adult.

## Keep it safe

Prepare your teen and yourself to know what to do in the event that something goes wrong on Snapchat.

- Check your teen is confident about **how to collect digital evidence** and knows when to record web address URLs rather than screenshots.
- Ask your teen to talk you through **how to report** an unsafe Chat, Snap or Story.
- Make sure your teen knows that **reports are confidential** and go directly to Snap's 24/7 Trust & Safety team for review.
- Check your teen knows that the Netsafe helpline is available for **free advice and support** about online harm. They can text Netsafe on **4282**.