

Keeping children and young people safe online

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WhatsApp has recently launched a new feature, enabling users to share their live location for 15 minutes, 1 hour or 8 hours. Users can share their location in a one to one chat, or with all members of a group chat.

WhatsApp already allows users to send a snapshot of their current location, but the live sharing feature means that your exact location will be broadcast to those contacts for the time period selected. You can click 'Stop Sharing' to stop sharing your location before the time limit.



Snapchat launched a similar feature a while ago called the Snap Map which allows you to see your contacts on a map based on their location. Through the Snap Map, users can broadcast their exact location with everyone in their contact list.

While sharing live locations is becoming increasingly popular, especially since Snapchat launched Snap Map, it is important that young people are careful about who they share their location with. **We would encourage all young people to think carefully before sharing their location, especially in a group chat.** To remove the option of location sharing entirely, you can choose not to allow WhatsApp to access your location in your device settings. You can disable location sharing in Snapchat as well.

Parents should have regular conversations with their children to make sure they know how to protect their privacy on apps like Snapchat and WhatsApp. The NSPCC Share Aware resources can help give advice and tips about how to start these conversations.

For more information and technical support, call the experts at the
NSPCC Online Safety Helpline – 0808 800 5002 or online at www.net-aware.org.uk

Useful websites for parents to help keep their children online are