


Location (map) settings in apps

Many apps such as snapchat, facebook and twitter use location services – a setting which can let people know where you are when you are logged in or when you post something (depending on your settings). Many of them have safety features that can turn this setting off and so restrict who can see a user's location, however if these settings are turned on the app may show your location on a map increasing the possibility of unwanted contact from strangers in your location or even enabling someone to follow you without your knowledge.

It is essential to learn about the location settings on the apps **that you use** and regularly check that the settings are at the level you want them to be so that you have control over who can see your location – this is particularly important for children and young people.

Your app will have a help centre where you can check your location settings, along with other privacy and security settings, this can usually be accessed under the 'settings' section which can be found by clicking on the  icon

Some apps will let you search people that are using the same app in a close by location and add them as a friend. Always remember that there are risks associated with accepting a friend request from somebody you do not know. Children and young people will often accept people they don't know to increase the number of 'friends' they have. Individuals asking to be a 'friend' may not be who they say they are and may have ulterior motives for doing so.

If your app syncs with another app, for example Facebook or Twitter, you may be sharing your location with more people than you think you are. Check in your settings to see if this is the case and change them as appropriate in your app.

Remember that some apps let other people "check you in" to a location. Again, check if the app that you use lets people do this and learn how to change the settings to a level you are happy with. In addition never 'tag' somebody else at a location unless they are happy for you to do so.

'Clean' your friends list regularly and delete anyone that no longer want to share information, including pictures and your location with.

For more information and links to online safety advice, go to:

<http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org/online-safety.html>