Social Media – Group Chat Support



Issues for WhatsApp

The biggest issues for Year 7-9 students are often:

- Large group chats.
- Exclusion from groups.
- Screenshots being shared.
- Comments made outside school hours leading to school issues.

Many UK safeguarding leads advise parents of Year 7 pupils to delay unsupervised WhatsApp use until children are mature enough to handle group chat dynamics responsibly.



WhatsApp

1. Open **WhatsApp**.
2. Tap **Settings**.
3. Go to **Privacy** → **Groups**.
4. Choose one of these options:
    1. **Everyone**: anyone can add you to a group.
    2. **My Contacts**: only people in your contacts can add you.
    3. **My Contacts Except...**: select all contacts if you want nobody to add you directly.

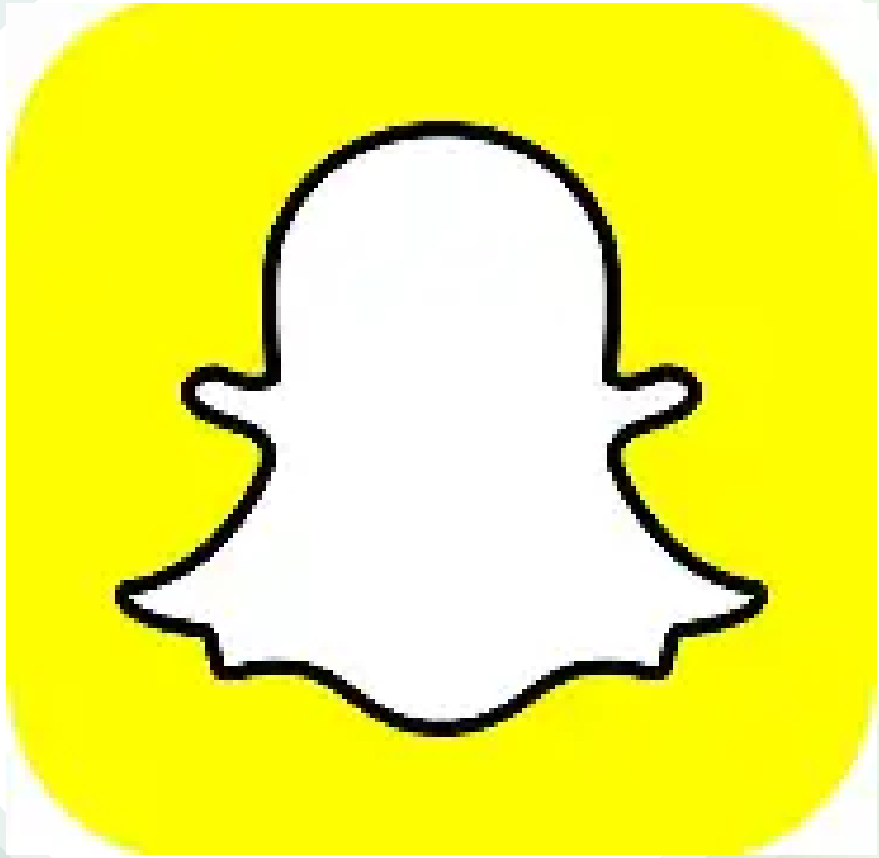
If someone who isn't permitted tries to add you, they'll instead have to send you a group invitation that you can accept or ignore.



Issues for Snapchat

Common concerns include:

- Vanishing messages creating a false sense of privacy.
- Snap Map location sharing.
- Friend requests from people not genuinely known to the child.
- Pressure to maintain "streaks."



Snapchat



Snapchat does not currently have a setting that completely prevents people from adding you to groups. To reduce unwanted group invitations:

1. Open **Snapchat** → tap your profile icon.
2. Tap the **Settings** (⚙️) icon.
3. Under **Privacy Controls**, review:
    1. **Contact Me** → set to **Friends**.
    2. **View My Story** → **Friends** (optional).
    3. Disable **Quick Add** if you want fewer people finding you.

You can also:

- Leave unwanted groups immediately.
- Block or remove people who repeatedly add you to groups.
- Change who can contact you to **Friends** only.