

# Cotham School

## Online Safety Newsletter

Academic Year:  
2024/2025

Term: 6  
Date: 02/06/2025



### Newsletter Topic:

1. What is: Emoji Meanings (Part 1 of 2)
2. Social Media Focus: Snapchat - Delete Account and Access to Privacy Controls

### What is: Emoji Meanings?

Emojis are used by everyone in their online chats. Besides making messages funny or stronger, these symbols can become a unique way for some groups, especially young people, to communicate. Teenagers, for instance, might use emojis like a secret code to hide what they really mean from adults.

While these hidden emoji meanings used by young people can be innocent, some might point to dangers like extremism, drugs, sex, and bullying. The Netflix show "Adolescence" recently showed how harmful online interactions can have terrible results, and how adults can easily miss the warning signs that come in the form of emojis.



### Context Matters

Emoji meaning depends on context, not just the symbol itself.

Understanding hidden emoji meanings is most helpful alongside other warning signs. Teenagers' online language evolves rapidly, so staying updated on slang is important for identifying risks. Hidden meanings are often specific to certain age groups or online communities. What one group understands may be completely different for another. Please remember that the interpretations of emojis can change rapidly and vary between different online communities.

Open, non-judgmental conversations with young people about their online experiences build trust and support digital safety education.

### Examples of Emojis with Hidden Meanings

- 🔥 **Fire:** Can mean something is hot, trendy, or excellent "lit". Can be used to signify something "hot" in a negative way or to intensify insults.
- 💯 **Hundred Points:** Generally signifies agreement, or that something is 100% true or good. It can also be used in relation to incel culture and represent the idea that 80% of women are attracted to 20% of men.
- 😬 **Face with No Mouth:** Can mean "Do not tell anybody", potentially in bullying or when sharing inappropriate information.
- 🤡 **Clown Face:** Can be used to refer to yourself as foolish or to describe someone else's behavior as ridiculous.
- 💧 **Droplets:** Water, "drip" (style), or rarely, bodily fluids (sexual context).
- 💦 **Sweat:** also used in a sexual context.
- 🍑 🍆 🍷 **Peach, Taco, Aubergine, Cherry:** Can represent body parts in a sexual context.
- 🍕 **Pizza:** Can be associated with sexual invitations or desires.
- 🙏 **Folded Hands:** While often used for prayer or thanks, it can sometimes be used sarcastically or to beg.
- ✨ **Sparkles:** Often used to add emphasis or denote something positive or exciting, but can sometimes be used sarcastically in a mean-spirited tone.
- 📌 **Red Pill:** Linked to misogynistic and extremist incel culture, representing those who see the "real truth" originating from The Matrix.
- 🟦 **Blue Pill:** Used in incel culture to represent those "blind" to the "real truth" and adhering to mainstream gender views.
- 💣 **Dynamite:** In incel culture, represents the "exploding red pill", breaking societal norms.
- 🫘 **Kidney Beans:** Tied to incel culture, thought to represent coffee beans in memes mocking women.
- 🗑️ **Plug:** Can mean drug dealer.
- ❄️ 📻 🚰 **Snowflake, Nose, Petrol Pump:** Represent the drug cocaine.
- 🐎 **Horse:** Can represent the drug ketamine.
- 🌿 **Leaf:** Can represent the drug Marijuana/weed.
- 🎈 **Balloon:** May represent the drug nitrous oxide.

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### Social Media: Snapchat

Snapchat is a multimedia messaging app developed by Snap Inc. It allows users to send photos, videos, and messages (called "Snaps") that disappear after being viewed. The app is known for its focus on ephemeral content, creative filters, and augmented reality (AR) features.



### Age Requirements: 13+.

#### Key Features:

- Snaps
- Stories
- Chats
- Filters
- Discover Page
- Snap Maps
- Memories
- Streaks

### Safety and Privacy Features:

- View and location sharing control
- Report and block
- Ghost mode - hide location
- Parental control tools
- 24h data deletion
- 2FA security
- AI Moderation
- Safety center resources.

### How to: Delete Account and Access Privacy Controls

#### Deactivating or deleting a Snapchat account?


To deactivate or delete your Snapchat account, follow the provided steps. Your account will be deactivated for 30 days, allowing reactivation. After another 30 days, it will be permanently deleted. You can also remove saved Memories, shared content with My AI, Spotlight submissions, and more.

#### Deactivating or Delete on Android:

1. Log in to the Snapchat accounts portal
2. Tap 'Delete My Account'
3. Input your password
4. Tap 'Continue' to confirm account deactivation/deletion




#### Deactivating or Delete on iOS:

1. Tap the  button in the Profile screen to open Settings
2. Scroll down to 'Account Actions'
3. Tap 'Delete Account'
4. Log in to the Snapchat accounts portal
5. Tap 'Delete My Account'
6. Input your password
7. Tap 'Continue' to confirm account deactivation/deletion



#### How do I change my privacy settings on Snapchat?

By default, only 'Friends' you've added on Snapchat can contact you directly or view your Story. To change privacy settings:

1. Tap the  button in the Profile screen to open Settings
2. Scroll down to the 'Privacy Controls' section and tap an option
3. Choose an option, then tap the back button to save your choice



#### Privacy settings options

- **Who Can Contact Me:** Set who can reach out via Snaps, Chats, and Calls.
- **Send Me Notifications:** Choose notifications from everyone or just friends.
- **Who Can View My Story:** Control who sees your Story, with a custom block option.
- **Public Profile:** Adjust My Story privacy settings in your profile.
- **Who Can See My Location:** Manage location visibility on Snap Map.
- **Who Can Use My Cameos Selfie:** Decide who can use your Cameos selfie in two-person Cameos.
- **Who Can See Me in Find Friends:** Control visibility in Find Friends; changes take up to 72 hours.
- **Activity Indicator:** Choose if others can see your recent Snapchat activity.

#### Things to remember

- If you choose 'My Friends', group members can still chat with you.
- You won't see Snaps from non-friends unless you add them back.
- Selecting 'Everyone' allows any Snapchat user to send Snaps and Chats.
- Changing Story settings won't hide previously posted Snaps.

**Tip:** You can receive Snaps from 'Everyone' but only get notifications from friends by adjusting settings in Snapchat > Notifications.

