



19th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Due to the popularity of Netflix's most recent viral show, **Squid Game**, we have decided to release a Safeguarding Update that highlights the main risks and concerns that safeguarding experts found when researching the show.

Squid Game is a South Korean television series streaming on Netflix. The plot centres on a group of adult debtors, thieves and gamblers competing against each other in a series of childhood games for a grand cash prize. However, there is a dark twist to these seemingly innocent games –losing competitors are violently killed off. Since its release in September 2021, Squid Game has become number one across over 90 different countries in Netflix's ranking of most watched TV shows. It has been number one in the UK for over thirteen consecutive days since its release.

Harmful content in the Squid Game has a rating of 15+ as the visual content includes high levels of gore, death, violence, and physical assault. It also has graphic depictions of suicide, murder and sexual assault. Many children and young people are likely to know about the show via word of mouth and because it is so popular on social media. They may be unaware of the extent of gore, death and violence the show contains. It also focuses on adult themes that are not appropriate for children. For young people living with mental health issues, they may be triggered by some of the content.

The aesthetic of Squid Game, especially in promotional images and material, appears innocent and childlike. This is to provide a clash with the excessively violent content that is meant to be jarring and unsettling to viewers. Parents and carers should be aware that video content from this show is found on TikTok, as well as other social media platforms, which could also increase their interest in watching the show.

Remember: even if you restrict the young person in your care from watching Squid Game, they may be able to access content on other social media platforms. As with all online safeguarding updates of this nature, we recommend listening out for signs that your child may have heard of this show, without directly bringing it to their attention and monitoring your child's online activity.

If you require any support please contact school.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Norton

Vice Principal

