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***Deputy Headteacher: Miss Lucy Taylor***

***“Challenge and enjoyment leading to excellence for all”***

**Headteacher: Mrs L Bamforth**

4th November 2021

Good afternoon,

We have been made aware that some children are accessing a new Netflix series "Squid Games", which is of an inappropriate nature for our aged children.

**What is Squid Game?**

“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 in ways that grow more twisted as the games grow more intense.

**Harmful Content in the Show**

Currently, 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.

Children and young people are likely to know about Squid Game via word of mouth and social media/gaming platforms. 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 younger viewers.

**How does my child know about this?**

As this is a cultural phenomenon, Squid Game has become a popular subject of memes, games, and online conversation. It is entirely possible for a child or young person to know all about Squid Game – without actually watching the show.

Popular gaming platforms Roblox and Fortnite have also seen a sharp increase in user-designed games recreating those in Squid Game. These can be played by anyone. They are also being heavily livestreamed by many gaming streamers on YouTube and Twitch as the show is currently trending, and mentioning it is an easy way to attract an audience.

Parents and carers should be aware that video content from this show is found extensively on TikTok, which could also increase 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 platforms.

Please find attached a flyer from Ineqe which is a Netflix Safety Guide to set viewing restrictions, PIN codes and more. This website - <https://ineqe.com/2021/10/08/squid-game/> has more information about Squid Game, should you need it.

As always, our number one priority is to keep the children safe and not exposed to material that is not appropriate for them.

Please get in touch if you need any further support.

With kindest regards,

Lorraine Bamforth

Headteacher