



Dear Parents and Carers,

8th October 2021

Inappropriate Programmes and Social Media

Unfortunately, we have found that some children (KS2) have been playing rather inappropriate playground games and, having observed and spoken to some children, it is because they are reportedly watching a programme called Squid Game. Netflix UK has given the show a 15 rating on the site, and it is described as 'undoubtedly brutal and violent' and 'anyone squeamish should stay well away'.

In these modern days when children have far more access to programmes and social media, I must urge parents to be vigilant and ensure that children are not watching or engaging in anything that is inappropriate. Sadly, we spend more and more time in school addressing issues that could so easily be avoided if some children weren't given such 'free rein' when it comes to social media, mobile phones, television, etc.

May I also remind you that WhatsApp has an age rating of 16+ and as such, children should not be coming into school worrying about messages from their peers on WhatsApp groups. Neither should they be feeling worried about this at home. WhatsApp can be hugely beneficial, but equally we have found that it can be enormously unsettling for children; adversely impacting their wellbeing and really disrupting their learning and progress. It is understandable that more and more children have a mobile phone but again, please do monitor this.

I am sure you would agree that while we all must work together to teach children how to be safe (including online), after such a disrupted time, teachers should not be spending their time talking to children about programmes and apps that they shouldn't be allowed to see/use anyway.

I very much recognise that this correspondence will not be applicable to all recipients and know that so many of you are very aware of these issues. But I am sending this to all parents so that you can see that we give safeguarding the highest priority.

Thank you for your support in this important safeguarding matter.

Kind regards,

Louise Wood

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