

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

A popular television series named 'Squid Game' premiered in 2021, and a second season has been released in recent months. In 2021, there was concern nationally in schools about the Netflix show due to its content.

Squid Game is a drama based in South Korea where hundreds of cash-strapped people compete in children's games to win a financial reward. The losers are killed in extremely violent ways. There is graphic and gruesome violence in almost every scene. It is extremely inappropriate for children and although rated a 15, could arguably be inappropriate for under 18 year olds.

Characters are tortured and killed for pleasure and there are scenes of sexual violence. There is a theme around the pleasure one gets from gambling. The show was trending across all social media platforms after its first season and there is a similar pattern being seen with season 2.

Since returning from the half term holidays, some children at Western have shared that they are aware of the programme, remaining unsure on its actual context.

We want to make you aware of the concerns about Squid Games in order to ensure safeguarding measures can be implemented in the home and to prevent re-enactment on the school playground. We do not want any child or young person to be exposed to this inappropriate content.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Leadership Team.

Please find below links to Netflix parental settings.  
<https://help.netflix.com/en/node/264>

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 **Learning Trust Alliance Teacher Training Teaching School Hub**

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## What are the hazards for children?

Squid Game's 15 rating has not prevented clips and images from the show being uploaded onto social media sites such as [TikTok](#), with the #SquidGame hashtag being viewed more than 22.8 billion times. There have been reports of children who have accounts on these platforms inadvertently viewing gory, explicit scenes from the programme, and parents and carers should be mindful of the prevalence of these uploads.

The popularity of the programme has also led to [online challenges](#) based on various scenes, which see people taking part in seemingly innocent children's games. On the show, however, characters are executed if they fail in the game – and videos of people pretending to kill each other after competing in Squid Game-style contests are going viral on social media, where they are easily accessible to children.

## What can trusted adults do?

As a parent or carer, keep a watchful eye on the content that your children are viewing. [Speak to them openly](#) and chat about how they have been spending time on their devices; let them ask questions, too. Ensure that the [parental controls](#) are activated [on your child's device](#) and that age-restricted child profiles are properly set up any on-demand services available through the family TV (such as [Netflix](#), in this case) to prevent inappropriate content being streamed.

If you see your child replicating the challenges from the show or hear them talking about scenes and characters from Squid Game, it would be a timely opportunity to discuss with them that the programme is not intended for children, that much of the content would be inappropriate for their age, and that the violence in the series is very realistic and often upsetting.

[https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know?fbclid=IwAR3humd-3E0vWGBkmr44VRyJJhhqUB1rW2rVeF17enMDH0ug\\_2IFEDIeqLs](https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know?fbclid=IwAR3humd-3E0vWGBkmr44VRyJJhhqUB1rW2rVeF17enMDH0ug_2IFEDIeqLs)

Kind Regards,

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