



Dear Parent/ Carer,

Safeguarding Alert - Squid Games

It has come to our attention that some of our children have been exposed to a new TV programme on Netflix called *Squid Games*, through either Netflix, YouTube or TikTok. This programme is not suitable for children and rated 15. Parents should be advised that the level of violence is very intense in *Squid Game*. Characters are systematically tortured and killed for the sadistic pleasure of a game master. Adults have sex, and there are threats of sexual violence. Themes concerning the highs one gets from gambling, winning, or conning money are a focus.

What is the squid Game Challenge App?

Squid Game Challenge (also known as *K-Game Challenge*) is an app for smartphones and tablets that has been released for Android and iOs, and the two systems differ significantly on their age ratings for the game. The iTunes Store rates the app as 12+ (advising of "mild/infrequent horror/fear themes"), while the PEGI rating for Android is just 3+, which means that very young children might be able to download and play the game even with parental controls activated on their device or through Google Play.

The gameplay is frequently interrupted by pop-ups and ads (sometimes appearing while the user is rapidly tapping their screen while attempting to complete the challenge). This could easily lead to unwanted purchases or accidental visits to inappropriate sites beyond the app.

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. <https://help.netflix.com/en/node/264>

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.

Further safeguarding advice can be found on our school website

<https://www.churchendlower.co.uk/safeguarding/>

Yours Sincerely

Mrs A Watts

Head of School & Designated Safeguarding Lead