



## THE BISHOPSWOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

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Executive Headteacher: Mr G Golding

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

### Re: Keeping your child safe online

Although many of you may be aware due to coverage in the media, I would like to bring your attention to a program on Netflix called 'Squid Game'. This is a South Korean television series where actors complete a range of tasks to win a prize. This program is rated 15 on Netflix as it contains references to death and physical violence, as the players are 'eliminated'.

Children are likely to know about the show via word of mouth and due to its popularity on social media. They may be unaware of the extent of death and violence the show contains. It also focuses on adult themes that are not appropriate for younger children. For young people who live with mental health issues, they may also be triggered by some of the content.

Parents and carers should be aware that video content from this show is also found on TikTok, which could also increase your child's interest in watching the show. Remember: even if you restrict your children from watching Squid Game on Netflix, they may be able to access content on other social media platforms.

We are bringing this to your attention as we have noticed an increased number of children starting to play their own versions of the games within the program in the playground - which in turn is causing conflict within friendship groups and physicality between children as they 'eliminate' others. If children are seen playing these games, we will speak to them and make them aware that this is inappropriate.

We have not spoken to the children specifically about 'Squid Game' as we do not want to further raise its profile with children who will not be aware of it or have access to unsupervised, unfiltered internet usage.

It is not my intention to patronise parents but as I have a duty of care to all of your children, I strongly urge that you assess how likely it is that your child can access this content; that if you do share this program with your child that you think carefully about how you do it; that you ensure that all online activity is supervised and finally that you check the filters on all devices that can access the internet; phones, tablets, lap tops games consoles etc.

If you have any questions regarding this issue please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Golding  
Executive Headteacher

Caring



Respecting



Thriving Together



Bishopswood Federation work together to develop kind and considerate children who are resilient, reflective and motivated learners, ready for the challenges that the future holds.