



Monday 15th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Squid Game

It has come to our attention that a number of children in our school have been watching the Squid Game series on Netflix streaming service. This programme features some scenes of extreme violence and is rated 15 by the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification). It follows a group of adults who compete to win innocent-looking playground games, but who are killed if they do not succeed at the tasks.

With the show's rising popularity, we have seen some children at Rockcliffe Manor mimicking actions from this programme and actively taking part in their own version of the red light, green light game in the playground.

National Online Safety have provided the following information to support parents and carers with tackling this alarming trend:

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 on 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



ROCKLIFFE MANOR
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Aimi Vdovin
Bassant Road, Plumstead, London SE18 2NP
T: 020 8854 4785
E: info@rockliffemanor.greenwich.sch.uk
www.rockliffemanor.co.uk

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

You can find further information and support using the following website:
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/squid-game>

As a school, we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to safeguard the children in our care and always seek ways to ensure that children are not being exposed to content which can cause them harm in any way.

If you would like guidance on how to set up parental settings for devices and content, please arrange to see Mr Smith.

Thank you for your continuous support with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Vdovin
Headteacher