



Dear all,

I hope you are well. Please find attached some links to support your children navigate the online world. I have included updated information on Squid Games and Huggy Wuggy. Later in this document, I have provided you links to click on to support setting up parental controls.

The internet is a fabulous place to be, however, sometimes young people see information they may find upsetting. They need to understand as soon as they are sharing information and photos online, they have the risk it can be seen and shared by anyone. I am working with Mowbray School to support young people online.

Online abuse can happen anywhere online, such as.

- Online chat games
- Email
- Social media posts
- Social media messages
- Live Streaming
- Text messages and messaging apps

We need to work together to understand the social media world our children socialise in and to understand the risks that they face and work with them to ensure they can use the internet safely.

We learn a lot of information ourselves through media and this can be a great conversation starter to check their understanding. Conversations with young people to help understand the world they are living in, helps to support them. Regular chats about their social media and gaming world are a fabulous way to stay in touch and ensure they know it is safe to come and chat about any concerns they may have.

Please be aware that the links I provide cannot guarantee children's safety, and that the information I provide is subject to change at any time. The internet and social media sites are ever evolving and can change their security settings. Therefore, please always regularly recheck your parental controls.

Thank you very much,
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GO WISE ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Squid Games - Internet Safety - ALL AGED CHILDREN

I have received questions from educators and parents about concerns of *Squid Games* and certainly internet safety platforms are continuing to report warnings on these games.

This has caused a rise of copy games & videos on Roblox, Tik Tok, Fortnite and other platforms. Please be aware anyone can add games to these platforms.

Have you heard of Squid Games?

You may have heard the children saying Red Light, Green Light.

Squid Games was released in September 2021 and has become number one across 90 different countries in Netflix's ranking of most watched TV shows.

Squid Games is a South Korean television series streaming on Netflix, in which participants play child style games to win cash prizes. The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) has rated this programme as a 15+.

Parents, carers and educators are encouraged to be aware of the potential risks to young people who might be exposed to it. The programme and copied style games involve participants who are a group of adult debtors, thieves, and gamblers who need to win their playground style game, or they are theatrically killed. The programme itself has been enjoyed by older teenagers and adults, it is just not suitable for young or vulnerable people, especially with children in Primary Schools accessing the media.

In the games, the players are masked and appear to be playing seemingly innocent child like games, however, competitors are violently killed off in ways that grow more developed as the games grows more intense before the concluding factor.

The promotional images and material, appears innocent and childlike, hence their ability to get through parental controls. These images are widely shared and are inciting the children to explore further.

Even if children have not seen the physical show, they may know about it from chat with friends and via social media and gaming platforms. They may be unaware or not understand the extent of violence these games and the programme itself contains.

To conclude on the success of this programme, games and cartoon versions are being produced across various platforms. These games still convey the violence shown in the show. There are memes across social media showing the violence which are getting through filters, therefore, chats with our children are important.

Harmful Content in the Show

Understandably as parents we have been unaware of the impact because if anything the title of the shows sounds childlike as well. However, I would urge you to view the content first and chat with your children about this if they are going to be watching it.

The 15+ rating is not preventing clips uploading to social media platforms such as TikTok. Reports show the #SquidGames hashtag has already been viewed more 22.8 billion times. On placing restrictions on our devices, it may stop children from watching the original show, but there is evidence it is certainly not stopping copy versions of Squid Games. Our young people may be able to access content on other platforms or receive memes to videos through messaging with friends. Therefore, we do need to be chatting.

On popular gaming platforms such as Fortnite and Roblox there is a rise in games recreating those in Squid Games. This is concerning as because already described the Squid Game rating is 15+, because the visual content includes varying descriptions of violence, death, gambling, sexual and physical assault. **It also has graphic depictions of these subjects.**

The concerns expressed in the media is that for young people who live with mental health difficulties, they may be triggered by some of the content.

In copy style videos there is concern young people are unintentionally putting themselves in harm's way.

How? The TikTok sensation on Squid Games has shown young people trying to recreate a small portion of these Squid games. There is a rise in the style of games been copied into videos on TikTok and in the playground, where instead of using weapons children are pushed over to demonstrate they have been killed, including using the wording of death and die.

The TikTok rise is for example a copy of the Honeycomb games where players are shown to cut one of four shapes of thin discs of various materials or is actual honeycomb sweets using a needle. In trying to not break the discs, injuries have occurred from sharp objects including burns from demonstrations on how to make honeycomb. Children have also been holding items in naked flames.

Huggy Wuggy Warning

A character named 'Huggy Wuggy' is being viewed online by children as young as 6 years old. The title Huggy Wuggy or Poppy Playtime is easily getting through firewalls and parental controls on YouTube. It is a teddy bear, however, it has razor sharp teeth with long arms. This is connected to a current bear toy craze of Huggy Wuggys. Online videos have online sings songs about hugging and killing. Huggy Wuggy seems kind and caring offering hugs. An example is this bear asks the viewer to take their last breath, singing "I could hug you here forever, till you breathe your last breath together"

It is difficult when these get through firewalls, it is of course about parents chatting through with their children what they are watching and checking when they can.

From Dorset Police resource; A Dorset Police spokesperson told Dorset Live: "The blue bear-like character has long arms and rows of razor sharp teeth.

"Set in an abandoned toy factory, Huggy is a villain in the game who stalks the players from vents and unreachable places. Videos of the game are available to watch on YouTube, with other clips dedicated to Huggy in songs.

"One song includes the lyrics 'I could hug you here forever, till you breathe your last breath together.'"

Chris Conroy, Cyber Protection Officer for Dorset Police said: "There are videos people have made, songs people have made, and it's popping up all over YouTube and TikTok using this quite graphic imagery of this bear-like character with razor-sharp teeth. It's based around jump scares and things you certainly wouldn't want children exposed to."

Conroy added: "If you were to use even YouTube kids for example, it may slip through because there is nothing obviously sinister about the name of the video. It really comes down to paying attention to what your children are doing and making sure they are not just trusting YouTube Kids videos are safe because unfortunately with videos like this, things do slip through the cracks."

See the links bellow to help you. In addition, keeping an eye on the cartoons your children look up, is fabulous way to know they maybe unintentionally looking at harmful content

What can we do?

I know already as a parent or carer you will keep a watchful eye on the content that your children are viewing. If you see or hear your child replicating the challenges from the show this is a great time to chat with them that the programme and games are not indeed for them, and it may upset them.

I know these platforms will act if we and our young people report ones that are unsuitable. Therefore, please report any unsuitable imagery, videos, etc getting through platforms. These platforms such as YouTube and Tik Tok will assist in their removal. Together we can unite for a safer internet.

As described a lot of the content is still getting filtered through, just as National Online Safety describe about the new app, which I have placed at the bottom of my letter.

It is a great time to check we have parental controls on which may help prevent some of it coming through to their devices. Here are some links for you just to click on which will support you reviewing parental controls along with further information.

[Parental controls on Netflix](#)

[TikTok Social Media Privacy Settings - Internet Matters](#)

[Social Media privacy setting guide - Internet Matters](#)

[What are the concerns around Netflix's Squid Game? | Internet Matters](#)

[Android Phone Parental Controls - Internet Matters](#)

[Apple iPhone and iPad parental control guide | Internet Matters](#)

[Roblox Parental Controls | Internet Matters](#)

[Fortnite Parental Controls Guide | Internet Matters](#)

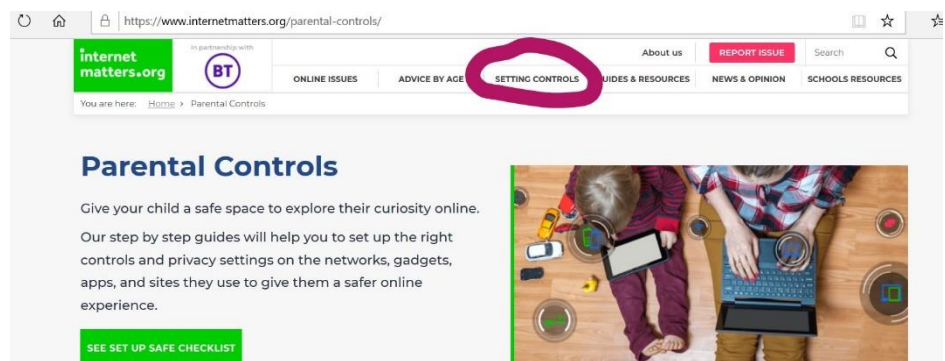
Further Security and Parental Controls

www.internetmatters.org

The links below will take you to step by step on his phone or Ipad to set up anything we talked about including any settings on his games.

Internet Matters which is a website constantly updated with advice for parenting on the internet

to keep children safe. Please do click on setting controls, you will see a drop-down menu for devices, broadband and gaming. From here it takes you step by step through setting suitable parental controls from your broadband, through to your devices.



This link <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/> from the drop-down fields, simply select the devices you wish to place parental safety controls on. Therefore, you would click on apple and it will take you to the screen of restrictions we spoke about so you can reduce the risk of him watching in appropriate videos.

Social Media Guides

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk>

Safer Internet is another good website of many resources to help our children and parents with internet safety. This is another resource to Internet Matters which I provided above.

The link discussed is [SaferInterNet Social Media Guidelines](#). This allows you to view step by step security settings for social media and game settings, from Club Penguin through to social media apps such as Facebook, Snapchat and more.

Gaming Guide

This is a helpful link, especially for the Xbox

<https://www.everybodyplays.co.uk/guide/How-to-set-up-the-Xbox-Ones-Parental-Controls/2362>

Internet Safety Advice and resources

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

The Think You Know website has some amazing resources. It has very informative guides and videos on internet safety for ages 5 - 17, and includes parent advice as well. In addition, there is helpful information on where you can get help should you need to. Within this website, there is also a link to www.ceop.police.uk should you or our children ever need to make a report.

<http://www.iwf.org.uk/>

The Internet Watch Foundation is a UK hotline for reporting criminal online content and works with the internet industry, police, and international partners to get such content removed.

<http://www.childline.org.uk>

Childline has a helpful site for teenagers and young children to read articles and ask questions in regard to cyberbullying, internet safety, puberty, sexual orientation, weight loss, exam stress, drugs, racism, appearance and much more. Young people can speak to counsellors or find their answers to these questions on this site.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/>

This is NSPCC site and has a few good share aware videos for the children to watch, including a video called "I saw your Willy" which is a little cartoon in regard not sharing photos of private parts.

Web searching

<http://www.safesearchkids.com/> there are others available as well through Google.

These are the child friendly search engines. It is a good idea to bookmark these. If you do bookmark them then the children can simply click on them at the top of your computer screen.



This is Youtube for children, a great app to control the videos they may be watching. Lots of cartoons as well. Please be aware as with any internet site sometimes inappropriate videos do slip through but please do report the videos so they can be removed from the site.

Please be aware that the links I provide cannot guarantee children's safety, and that the information I provide is subject to change at any time. The internet and social media sites are ever evolving and can change their security settings. Therefore, please always regularly recheck your parental controls.

The key is to have regular conversations with your children about their digital world who are just starting on social media. Once they do then move onto social media and their relationships with peers develop, you are already frequently chatting about their life off and online and therefore you are able to support them through their choices. In addition, should they be unfortunate to encounter unhappiness online they will naturally come to talk to you.

Thank you very much

Sarah Lynch

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