

# What Parents Need to Know about SQUID GAME

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**15+**  
Suitable only for 15 years and over.

With themes of horror and violence, it's important for parents and carers to understand the potential risks posed for young audiences by the viral TV show, Squid Game. The nine-episode Netflix-exclusive TV show is rated 15+ and is about a world where contestants who are deeply in debt play children's games in order to win cash prizes. The losers, however, are violently killed. The show's popularity has meant it has spread across online platforms, and there is a great risk of young people being exposed to unsuitable scenes, meaning parents and carers have to be vigilant when allowing children to use devices.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some might argue that Squid Game contains content that might not even be suitable for older teens, let alone young children. Characters are brutally tortured and killed through stabbings or getting shot as a result of rules developed and enforced by a masked game master. The show also features sexual content and threats of sexual violence, as well as a strong theme of gambling that runs throughout the whole show.

## APPEAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Whilst the content is very much adult-themed, some features of the show seem to appeal to young children at face-value. The name "Squid Game" may be interpreted as a programme aimed at children rather than adults. The content itself, such as the bright and childish aesthetics, may also appeal to young children, particularly as there's a focus on playground games to go with it.

## SIMILAR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

When using social media and streaming sites, content is recommended based on what is the user has consumed i.e. what they have watched or searched for. Therefore, there is a greater chance of your child being exposed to similar violent or horror-themed content on social media after watching a show like Squid Game.

## VIRAL SPIN-OFFS

As well as Netflix, Squid Game has grown in notoriety and prevalence on other platforms, like TikTok and YouTube, with clips of the show going viral. On YouTube Kids, a number of successful channels have taken advantage of the Squid Game trend, creating content such as "How to Draw Squid Game Characters" videos. Its popularity has also led to the creation of app games that put the player in the role of a contestant who is killed if they lose a game.

## SCENE RE-ENACTMENTS

Squid Game's pervasive presence on social media has encouraged many content creators to re-enact scenes from the show, which has led to reports of children wanting to also imitate those scenes displayed on social media at home and in school. Much of this content stems from the "Red Light, Green Light" game from the first episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them. episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Netflix has easily accessible built-in parental controls that allow you to set up a profile for your child with a specific age rating, block them from watching certain shows and even lock their account so it can't be accessed by anyone else. Netflix also allows you to access your child's viewing history to make sure they're not watching anything inappropriate for their age.

### CHECK AGE RATINGS

Age ratings on TV shows and films are a way to gauge what is suitable for audiences of different ages. If you are unsure about the content your child is watching, check the age rating to see if the TV show or film is deemed suitable for their age group. If not, try watching the show yourself or talking to other parents who have seen it before to get a better understanding of why it's been rated a certain way.

### MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

Squid game has become a social media craze and it's possible your child will see some content related to the show on various platforms. Therefore, it's important to be aware of which websites your child has visited on their smartphone, tablet or laptop, and to also keep an eye out for which accounts they are following on social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok.

### HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Making sure your child is comfortable telling you about what they see online can go a long way to ensuring you are kept in the loop about their online use. Showing an interest in what your child is doing online gives you the opportunity to discuss what is and is not appropriate for their age group, and how they might recognise their own feelings towards content they see.

### MONITOR BEHAVIOUR

Due to the viral nature of the show, even if your child has not seen Squid Game, it's important to keep an eye on their behaviour. There have been reports from schools of children "playing Squid Game" in the playground and acting aggressively towards the losers as a way to replicate the consequences of losing in the TV show. Viewing content that makes your child feel uncomfortable could also cause them to feel distressed or distracted, so it's important you can easily spot the signs.

### WATCH THE SHOW

If you're trying to figure out whether you should let your child watch Squid Game, it might be a good idea to watch the show yourself first. Doing so will allow you to get a better understanding of the show's content and themes, as well as help you decide if this is something you'd feel comfortable with your child being exposed to.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced and highly respected freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The INQUIRER, Carly now works as the news editor for Computer Shopper and IT Pro and writes for a number of publications including Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The Metro, uSwitch and WIRED.



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# The Anchor News

Serving the local community in the name of Christ since 1859

3rd December 2021

## #LearningforLifeAnchoredInChrist

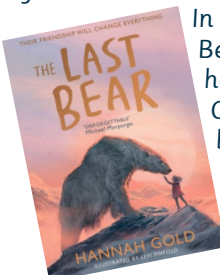
Our values focus this half term is

**Hope**



Hi Everyone!

I'm Mrs Roberts and I teach in Year 6 alongside Mrs Fox and Miss Khatun. I've been here for about a month now, and I am overwhelmed by the warm welcome I have received from everyone. Thank you!



In Year 6, we have been reading The Last Bear, which is a story about a girl and her Father who move to The Arctic Circle and rescue a polar bear. It's a beautifully well-written book, and I know our Year 6 children have really enjoyed it. I think the arrival of snow this week really went some way to enhancing this enjoyment!

This week is the first week of Advent, and I know Year 3 have been learning a lot about this in preparation for their assembly that they shared with the school on Wednesday. Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ, and I am looking forward to experiencing this with the children at St. Clement's over the coming weeks.

Take care!

Mrs Roberts - Class Teacher



## UNICEF Rights of the Child

### Article 9 (separation from parents)

Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (for example, if a parent is hurting or neglecting a child). Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this could cause them harm.



## Safeguarding: Attendance



Please can you remember to call school and report your children's absence. If the office is unavailable, then please leave a message. It is important that we know the reason for absence for all children, school will try to contact families via the telephone or by carrying out a home visit. If contact is not made a referral to supporting agencies may be made and/or an unauthorised mark recorded.



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## Important Upcoming Dates

Please be aware that due to Covid restrictions, we will not be inviting parents or visitors into school to take part in upcoming events.

### December 2021

Tues 7th	KS2 (Yr. 3-6) Christmas Lunch (Pupils Only)	
Wed 8th	Snow Queen Theatre Performance (Pupils Only)	
Thur 9th	Rec + KS1 (Yr. 1-2) Christmas Lunch (Pupils Only)	
Fri 10th	Christmas Jumper day (Save the Children Charity) £1 donation	
Mon 13th	Santa's Grotto (Pupils Only)	
	Shining Stars Award Assembly (Pupils Only)	
Tues 14th	Nativity Performance (Pupils Only)	
Wed 15th	School Carol Service (Pupils Only)	
Thur 16th	Class Christmas Parties/Disco	

### Friday 17th December - End of Term



Christmas Break  
Mon 18th - Fri 31st December 2021



Monday 3rd January - School Closed  
Bank Holiday

Tuesday 4th January 2022  
First Day Back - Normal Time

Friday 7th January - School Closed  
Teacher Training Day

More details will follow closer to the dates

  
**Save the Children CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

**NEXT Friday  
(10th December)**

is

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

So don't forget to wear your Christmas Jumpers and help us to raise money for 'Save the Children'.

**Children can wear a Christmas Jumper or School Uniform ONLY.**

If they wear a Christmas Jumper please send in a £1 donation



*Advent*  
=  
*Hope*  
*Peace*  
*Joy*  
*Love*

**DON'T FORGET**



Never give up **HOPE**. Situations can change over night, and problems can dissolved in the light of a new days **SUN**.

*Leon Brown*

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Get involved in SEND Co-production and 'Have your Say' workshop opportunities

As you may know work is well underway to improve the way SEND support services are planned and provided for children, young people and families in Birmingham.

It is a priority to us that we involve as many SEND parents and carers on this journey, so that we deliver the right support for families who use the SEND services in order to produce the very best outcomes for children and young people.

You can find more information at [www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk](http://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk)

### 'Have your Say' on SEND

You are invited to Parent and Carer Engagement Events focusing on co-production and how your voice can influence the SEND offering in Birmingham. There is a choice of online or in person, with more events planned for January.



[www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk](http://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk)

**Carrs Lane Conference Centre**  
**15th December 2021**  
**10am - 1pm**

**Online event**  
**15th December 2021**  
**6pm - 8pm**



## Admissions Consultation

Our 2023-24 Admissions Consultation Period commenced on Monday 22nd November 2021 and runs until Monday 3rd January 2022.

You can find a copy of the policy in the "Information for Parents" section of our website (<https://bit.ly/AdmissionsConsultation2023>)

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have heard of a company called imoves. They work with and provide 'active educational' resources to primary schools across the UK and beyond.

Each Christmas, they produce what they call an 'Active Advent' calendar which many teachers will use in school, during the last couple of weeks before the holidays.

This year, in response to the devastating impact of the pandemic, self-isolation and lockdowns, they've gone even further.

They've created a completely free 'Active Advent' calendar, designed specifically for kids, their friends, and their families to enjoy at home.

Just like the traditional advent calendar, an amazing new activity is revealed each and every morning throughout December - but with no chocolate in sight!

It's incredibly good fun, elf-y AND educational.

And most important of all - it's 100% FREE.

No catches, no hidden agenda, just a nice thing to do because it's the right thing to do.

They are relying on contacts and 'word of mouth' etc to spread the news, and that's why we are sharing this information with you.

You can join in literally 10 seconds at [www.activeadvent.fun](http://www.activeadvent.fun)

I'm sure it will be incredibly good fun - not just for the kids but for your entire family.



All are welcome to join the team at Birmingham Cathedral to sing a carol, hear the Nativity Story and take part in a pop-up Nativity activity.

Join us for a

#ChristmasattheCathedral

## Pop-Up Nativity.

Suitable for accompanied children under the age of 10.

Costumed characters welcome!



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@bhamcathedral

**Saturday 4 December**  
**10.30am, 11am and 11.30am**