



Squid Games - what is it?

"Squid Game," which debuted on Netflix in September, is a South Korean fictional drama following contestants, who are deeply in debt, as they play a series of children's games in an attempt to win money. But, if contestants lose, they're killed off – and the show doesn't shy away from the gore and violence.



And yet, "Squid Game" has amassed a huge following, with Netflix reporting that 111 million accounts had watched the anti-capitalist drama in within less than a month since its debut, calling the show its "biggest-ever series at launch."

Rated 15+

It has been rated 15 by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC). The BBFC focus on helping you choose what is appropriate for your family to watch. You can find out why Squid Game has been rated 15 by visiting the BBFC .

Taken from Safer Schools (<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2021/10/08/squid-game/>)

Harmful Content in the Show

Currently, Squid Game has a rating of 15+ as the visual content includes high levels of gore, death, violence, and physical assault. It also has graphic depictions of suicide, murder, and sexual assault.

Children and young people are likely to know about Squid Game via word of mouth and social media/gaming platforms. They may be unaware of the extent of gore, death, and violence the show contains. It also focuses on adult themes (such as gambling, debt, and sex) that are not appropriate for younger viewers. For young people who live with mental health issues, they may be triggered by some of the content.

The aesthetic of Squid Game, especially in promotional images and material, appears innocent and child-like. This is to provide a clash with the excessively violent content that is meant to be jarring and unsettling to viewers.

How does my child know about this?

As this is a cultural phenomenon, Squid Game has become a popular subject of memes, games, and online conversation. It is entirely possible for a child or young person to know all about Squid Game – without actually watching the show.

Popular gaming platforms Roblox and Fortnite have also seen a sharp increase in user-designed games recreating those in Squid Game. These can be played by anyone. They are also being heavily livestreamed by many gaming streamers on YouTube and Twitch as the show is currently trending, and mentioning it is an easy way to attract an audience.

Parents and carers should be aware that video content from this show is found extensively on TikTok, which could also increase interest in watching the show. **Remember: even if you restrict the young person in your care from watching Squid Game, they may be able to access content on other platforms.**

What Can Parents do?

Parental Controls (thinkuknow.co.uk)

These controls are designed to help parents and carers manage their child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so they shouldn't replace the need for you to support and advise your child using the internet. For more Information go to:

[Using parental controls](#)

Starting a conversation about online safety (NSPCC)

It can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online or who they might be speaking to. But talking regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed and mean that when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you. For more information go to [Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC](#)

Individual Profiles (childnet.com)

Netflix have launched an update to their parental controls. Netflix have updated these settings to help families around the world get the most from their viewing experience, as well as allowing them to make decisions about what content is right for their family. This [blog](#) looks at these new controls, and how parents and carers can use them with their family.

Parental Controls

Set up appropriate parental controls on your broadband, devices and on individual apps.

Talk

Chat to your child about age ratings and why this means certain programmes are not suitable for them to watch.

Individual Profiles

Set up child profiles on any streaming services to ensure your child is only viewing content appropriate to them.

Reporting

Make sure your child knows how to report and block on all platforms that they use.

Explore

Watch and explore things online together so you can see what your child is doing and how to support them.

How to make a report (childnet.com)

Reporting advice for adults and young people. Most services have rules about what kind of content is allowed on the site. Often if something is harassing an individual, pornographic or violent it breaks the rules. You can report this kind of content using the reporting tools on the sites. For more information go to: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/how-to-make-a-report>

Explore (childnet.com)

During remote learning young people will be spending more time at home than usual - with their families, and on devices. We have put together a list of resources that you can use with them, to explore online safety in a fun, engaging and educational way. For more information go to: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/online-safety-activities-you-can-do-from-home>

It is important to talk to your child regularly about what they are watching and ensure that they know they should always tell you or another trusted adult if they do see anything upsetting. You can find out more about the type of inappropriate content your child might come across online, how to deal with it and links to further support here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/inappropriate-content/learnabout-it/>

Please contact Alison Hill, District Safeguarding Officer for more help and guidance by calling 07483 362 735 or via email at safeguarding@sheffieldmethodist.org



Worried about something
you've seen online?

CLICK TO REPORT IT!

