



# Heworth Grange School

*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

14th October 2021

Dear parents and carers,

## Safeguarding Update

### **Sharing of indecent images**

Due to increased reports of young people under the age of 18 sharing images of nudes with each other, Northumbria police have asked schools to highlight that this online behaviour will stay with them forever and to think before they share indecent images.

Northumbria police have asked schools to circulate a letter which can be found [here](#) and encourage parents, carers and students to watch [this](#) video.

The police are trying to help young people understand that once they press the send button, they no longer have control over what happens or who sees their messages or images. Young people might see this as a bit of harmless fun, but if they are sharing nude images of someone who is under 18, that is a sexual offence and they could find themselves in serious trouble. The police and school encourage young people that have been affected by this issue, not to be embarrassed and to please tell a trusted adult or report it to the police.

### **Squid Game**

Squid Game is a South Korean television series streaming on Netflix. Since its release Squid Game has become number one across 90 different countries. Young people are likely to know about the show via word of mouth and because it is so popular on social media. Currently, Squid Game has a rating of 15+ as the content includes high levels of gore, death, violence, and physical assault. It also has graphic depictions of suicide, murder, and sexual assault. The adult themes presented in the series are not appropriate for children.

The aesthetic of Squid Game, especially in promotional images and material, appears innocent and childlike. Children may not be aware of the nature of the show's content or the age rating when seeing references to the series on social media. There is also national concern that children may unintentionally put themselves in harm's way by trying to recreate elements of the series.

We ask that Parents and carers are vigilant around this and ensure children do not access age inappropriate content. Parents and carers should be aware that video content from this show can be found on TikTok and other social media platforms, which could also increase children's interest in watching the show. Even if you restrict your child from watching Squid Game on Netflix, they may be able to access content from the series on social media platforms.

Advice around each of the main social media platforms and how to keep your child safe is available to download [here](#).

The NSPCC website also provides helpful guidance around keeping children safe online [here](#).



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## World Mental Health Day

To raise awareness of World Mental Health Day and mental health issues, students have been wearing yellow ribbons this week as part of Personal Development sessions held during Advisory time. This links to Every Mind Matters which is an NHS campaign providing support and advice to everyone, and there are specific tips and awareness for children and those caring for them, and also self-care tips for young people [here](#).

The Young Minds website also offers a guidance and advice for parents and carers around mental health: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Allie Denholm  
Headteacher

