

4th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Recently we have been alerted to a number of safeguarding concerns related to children in our school accessing age-inappropriate content on a variety of platforms including television, gaming and social media. Whilst we understand that it is often difficult to keep up to date with what is appropriate, there is guidance available to support us all with this. We wanted to share some of these with you to keep you updated on current concerns within the Local Authority that may affect your children:

Squid Game – [Age 15](#), (Netflix).

Sally Face – [Age 18](#), (Streaming websites and Nintendo Switch). Warning on game that it contains extreme violence and strong language.

Grand Theft Auto – [Age 18](#), X-Box and Playstation. Warning on game that it contains extreme violence and strong language.

Please Remember:

The age restriction for most social media is 13 and above, but we know how easy it is for younger children to sign up too.

We would advise you to:

- Talk to your child about what they would do if they see concerning content online and who they would talk to.
- Be curious – ask your child where they have seen this content? Can that channel/account/game be blocked? Do you know how to report inappropriate content?
- Don't treat 'online' different to real life - to children, online is real life. In the same way that we would talk about their day at school, their friends etc. we should have regular discussions about what they are doing online and what to do if something is concerning or upsetting them.

What Can They Play Instead?

You can use the below database to search for appropriate and fun games based on your child's age:

<https://www.taminggaming.com/cgi-bin/taminggaming.cgi>

For more Tips, Advice or Parental Guides on online and Social Media safety:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

We are also encouraging all parents who haven't already done so to download the **Safer Schools App**. Search "Safer Schools" in App Store for I-Phone or Play Store for Android. Open the app and type in Phoenix Academy and finally enter the code 7440. This app has a wealth of safeguarding information and focusses on current online challenges.



If you do have any concerns or would like any additional support call the school office on 01922 712 834 or pop in to make an appointment with us and we will be happy to help.

We would like to work together with you to help protect our children from the effects of this harmful content. Should concerns be raised in school, we will always call you to discuss this in person and the strategies that can be used to keep children safe at home and possible support from outside agencies.

Kind Regards

Steph Edwards & Kelly Oakes

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