

Coagh Primary School

31 Urbal Road
Coagh
Co Tyrone
BT80 0DW

Tel: 028 867 37676

Email: ibayne452@c2kni.net

Website: www.coaghprimaryschool.com



Principal: **Mr I Bayne B.Ed.(Hons), PQH (NI)**

SQUID GAME ***18th October 2021***

Dear Parents/Carers

Netflix have just released a new show called Squid Game which has a 15 age rating attached to it. Squid Game is quite graphic with a lot of violent content.

Like many other schools locally (I have spoken with several Principals this morning) and nationally we have become aware over the last few days that many pupils are now talking about Squid Game either because they have seen parts of the show or they have heard older siblings/parents or pupils talking about it.

As a school we would strongly advise that children under 15 should not watch Squid Game due to safeguarding concerns.

We have had some pupils in a few of our classes on Friday and today trying to 'play' some of the games featured in the programme. These playground games have currently been very 'innocent' in nature and look remarkably similar to traditional games such as 'what's the time Mr Wolf' with the name changed to 'Squid Game'.

In the Netflix series, Squid Game's challenges are mostly based on old playground games such as tug of war, marbles and red light, green light, but with a violent twist. Contestants are killed if they fail the tests and the last one to survive wins a large cash prize.

Mr Bayne has spoken with all classes except P1/2 today to say that all games called 'Squid Game' should not be played or talked about in Coagh Primary School. The vast majority of the pupils are completely unaware of the Netflix series and its content so this was not discussed and it was only a very general overview that certain games/names are not to be used in school.

We want to make all our parents aware of this so that you are equipped to talk about 'Squid Game' should your child mention it this afternoon or over the coming days.

If you have any concerns/questions, please contact Mr Bayne in the school office or email ibayne452@c2kni.net

Yours sincerely,

Mr I. Bayne
Principal
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ibayne452@c2kni.net