

New Invention Junior School

Parents Safeguarding Newsletter

Issue 04 ~ July 2018 ~ msharratt@invention-j.walsall.sch.uk ~ 01922710376

[Doki Doki Literature Club](#)

is a free-to-play, psychological horror game!

Age 16+

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Parents need to know that Doki Doki Literature Club! is a downloadable computer game about teen girls that has become controversial because of its deceptive gameplay:

After an hour and a half of pretending to be a dating simulator, it reveals itself to be a darker, scarier mystery revolving around suicide. Everything starts to go haywire after one of the girls kills herself. Suicidal imagery is shown: One girl stabs herself, and another hangs herself.

Frequent strong language includes "f--k," "bitch," and more. There's also a reference to drinking wine, but it isn't shown on-screen. Sex is explored as a theme in the form of the girls cruelly teasing each other over unfulfilled lust and also being angry that one of the girls' breasts "magically grow a size" around the player character. This game also has a chat function so other players can 'chat' but there is no way of seeing who they are!

Please check games that your children may be playing, most are highly inappropriate but will draw children in.

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility

Safeguarding is about protecting children, young people and adults at risk from abuse or neglect. It also means helping children to grow up into confident, healthy and happy adults.

Most children enjoy generally happy childhood experiences within their own family. Unfortunately for some, this is not the case. During difficult family times, everyone who knows the child must do the best they can to protect them from future harm.

You could be a neighbour, friend, relative, child-minder, teacher or doctor, or working for any organisation which has contact with children and young people. Protecting children is everyone's responsibility.

If you are concerned about a child please do not wait for someone else to report it

There is a website where you can get reviews on APPS that children may be using. The reviews are all written by parents and professionals who have knowledge of the APPS. This website will also give you the age range for the child, so you will be able to find out if its age appropriate.

www.commonsensemedia.org

Referrals for mental health treatment rise by over a third

Number of referrals by schools seeking mental health treatment for pupils has shot up by over a third in the last 3 years. That's not including requests from parents. On average 183 referrals were made per school day in 2017/18 and 56% of these referrals came from primary schools. Where information was provided about the outcome of the referral, almost one third were declined specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Parents and schools need to be united in getting the correct services involved that our children need. Parents need to be open with school staff to achieve the right outcomes for their children.

Information from NSPCC

App Alert

Roblox - Please be aware that a very concerning incident locally of grooming of children has happened using this app.

Houseparty - Group Video Chat is a video-focused social media app. Friends (and friends of friends) can communicate with each other via live video and texts. Because there's no screening and the video is live, there's always the possibility of inappropriate content for children.

If you have any concerns regarding your or another child please contact Ms Sharratt at school.