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16th September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Skibidi Toilet Viral Video

We have been made aware that some of our pupils have been watching a YouTube video series titled 'Skibidi Toilet' at home. The videos depict a fictional conflict between a race of characters that have human bodies but electronic devices for heads and an army of toilets that have human heads protruding from the bowls. Although these videos are not available on YouTube Kids, they have attracted a young audience and have become particularly popular with under 12s.

Despite its rudimentary computer-generated animation, the videos contain violence and weaponry. Additionally, children have told us that the idea of an aggressive head coming out of the toilet bowl has resulted in them having nightmares or developing a fear of using the toilet when at school.

The rise in popularity of 'Skibidi Toilet' is yet another example of how quickly trends emerge online. Children are only ever a few clicks away from inappropriate content, even when engaging with an age-appropriate channel. Although YouTube's terms of service state that users must be 13 or over, it also says 'children of all ages may use the Service and YouTube Kids if enabled by a parent or legal guardian'.

At school, children are taught how to be safe online. At home, parents and carers can help to prepare their children through regular and relevant conversations about the digital world. As we do at school, it is important to assure them they can report any concerns with assurances they will not be in trouble if they have made an error of judgement. Talking is a simple but effective way to keep our children safe online.



How can you restrict your child's exposure to Skibidi Toilet?

Parental controls – Use the parental controls on devices and video-sharing apps to restrict content by age recommendation and/or by keywords.

Talk to other parents and to teachers – Even with restrictions at home, your child may still see inappropriate content. If your child has been made anxious by what they've seen, talk to us so that we are aware that your child is troubled by it.

Keep devices in family spaces – Keep tech devices in places in the home that are open and not tucked away in their rooms so that you can have an awareness of what they're consuming online and how they are responding to it.

Further information about how to keep your children safe online can be found on the following websites:

[Parental Controls guidance from Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/)

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

[NSPCC advice on parental controls](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/)

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

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you are concerned about the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'SK' followed by a long horizontal line.

Mrs S Keenan
Acting Headteacher