

28/05/2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to make you aware that Netflix has released a series containing sensitive and mature topics. *13 Reasons Why (Season 2)* was released on Friday 18 May. It is likely to be a discussion topic in broader society and may be accessible to your child. We have prepared the information below so that you are able to respond or act preventatively to support your child.

The Netflix series, *13 Reasons Why*, was a topic of much discussion amongst senior school communities following its release in March 2017. The series tells the story of a senior student, Hannah, who suicides and leaves behind thirteen cassette tapes detailing the reasons why she ended her life. The final episode depicts her method of suicide, which researchers have cautioned may increase the potential risk to vulnerable people. Despite the controversy, Netflix has announced and released the second season of the series.

The content of season two is currently unknown to myself as I have not yet viewed it; however, there has been speculation that it may include a school shooting, an attempted suicide, a lawsuit against the school and a rape trial. The second season is expected to be graphic and confronting. Young people may be at risk if exploring these themes unchecked, unsupervised and unsupported. It is unfortunately a possibility that some of our primary students may have been exposed to the content via direct viewing or through discussions with older, more mature siblings.

Headspace and Netflix have collaborated ahead of the release of *13 Reasons Why (Season 2)* to create safe and informative resources for young people, parents and schools. They have produced a discussion guide available via the link: <http://13reasonswhy.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/13-Reasons-Why-Season-1-Discussion-Guide-compressed.pdf>

There is also a designated webpage where the resources will be located, a set of videos from the cast addressing issues depicted in the show, and detailed help seeking information for young people. This information will be accessible via the link: <https://13reasonswhy.info/>

The *13 Reasons Why* series is rated MA15+ in Australia; however, many younger students have viewed the first season. If your child has not yet seen the series, you have two main options:

1. Restrict their access on Netflix through parental controls (<https://help.netflix.com/en/node/264>)
2. Supervise their exposure and debrief them on the content. Be aware that the season of *13 Reasons Why* was a widespread topic of conversation and students may have accessed the series in private, which places them at an increased risk.

Parents are encouraged to have conversations about content of *13 Reasons Why* with your child if it is discovered that they have viewed the original series. It is important to be aware of common warning signs and how to respond. The following links offer useful information

Beyond Blue - www.beyondblue.org.au/ Headspace - <https://headspace.org.au/>

Our School Counsellor, Mrs. Michelle Hoffman, is also available to offer support and guidance for any youth mental health concerns.

Regards

Bernard Fitzgerald

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