



15<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents / Caregivers

## **Conversations about “13 Reasons Why” Season 2**

As parents and as teachers working with young people, it is important to make ourselves aware of key issues of concern in the media our young people are exposed to. Last year the Student Support Team sent out the following communication about Netflix series “13 Reasons Why”. Season 2 is being released on 18 May and so we felt it would be helpful to parents to be aware of this and to proactively consider some of the concerns. (It does have a rating of 18 but Netflix is very accessible so we understand students may potentially gain access.)

As highlighted in the recent Education Gazette last year :

<http://www.edgazette.govt.nz/Articles/Article.aspx?ArticleId=9484>, “13 Reasons Why” is a Netflix series that includes graphic scenes about suicide and rape that have caused distress for some viewers. The issues raised in the series are sadly a reality for increasing numbers of young people and it is uncertain which of these issues will be highlighted in Series 2.

As Shaun Robinson of the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand expresses in the article below in response to Season 1, “conversations and stories that oversimplify the causes of suicide, present suicide as a reasonable response to difficult circumstances, explicitly discuss methods of suicide and fail to explore any solutions or avenues of help aren’t safe conversations and put vulnerable people at risk...” As parents it can be challenging to know where and how to begin talking about these sensitive and important topics. These conversations are important, and talking responsibly about these issues creates the opportunity to offer and find help. As you prayerfully consider what might be helpful for your teen, some places to look for information are:

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/parenting/20-04-2017/13-conversations-to-have-about-13-reasons-why/>

<http://www.theparentingplace.com/communication/why-we-need-to-talk-to-our-teens-about-13-reasons-why/>

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/13-reasons-why-suicide-how-to-talk-with-your-teen-about-netflix-show/>

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/FactSheets/AFSP13Reasons.pdf>

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact one of our school counsellors:

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Yours sincerely

**Mrs Yvette Britten**

**On behalf of the Student Support Team**