Information for parents on the game Doki Doki

This guidance is based on information supplied by Catherine Shaw, RESH Coordinator, Darlington Borough Council.

Doki Doki is a Japanese style horror/dating game based on some popular manga books. The game has you interacting with some female characters who you are trying to date. Initial investigation highlights that the game starts off ok and then slowly turns into horror and the story line involves suicide.
The game does come with this warning but has been criticised for not having the warning more prominent:

"This game is not suitable for children or those easily disturbed. Individuals suffering from anxiety or depression may not have a safe experience playing this game."

There are lots of reviews online and lots of links to other Doki Doki games and books and animations and yes, while it isn't for children the art style is your typical manga and anime which lots of children are into.

Here is a review:
https://www.rockpapershotgun.com/2017/10/31/doki-doki-literature-club-horror-game/

Here is a very interesting article about the how the game covers suicide
https://gameluster.com/suicide-gaming-doki-doki-gets-wrong/

YouTube again has many, many videos of people playing it and you can see adults reacting with distress when they see the suicide so I can imagine a child or young person being very disturbed by the content and ever more so if they have emotional issues.

Anime and manga can be very dark and very, very adult in content with graphic sex and violence.

There are some links identified with young people who are socially isolated and maybe experiencing EHWB or mental health issues as they relate to it and therefore become highly involved. Although not all young people who engage in this type of game play have these issues.

Please take the time to look at this game and talk to your children about it if they have access to the Internet, including YouTube. Please look at what your child is viewing online. If you need any support please speak to your child's class teacher or Mr Gartland.