

## Cyber Safety in Action – Teacher’s resource



These scenarios help to create conversation starters during class after Internet Safe Education has presented.

**Key Messages**

- The internet is PUBLIC and PERMANENT
- My identity is mine to protect
- Online contacts remain strangers
- Online rules and laws are real
- My choices today impact my future

**1 – Brett receives a follow from a girl who is very pretty. She looks about the same age in the photo and Brett messages her. They have regular contact and the girl is funny and kind. They talk about all sorts of things and Brett feels really comfortable with her. She sends him a voucher to see a movie she really enjoyed. She asks where he’ll see the movie so he excitedly tells her the theatre and when he’s going. What issues should Brett consider in this situation?**

- Issues to consider
  - He hasn’t met the girl in the physical world. He doesn’t really know this person. Male/female. Older/younger.
  - This is a method of building trust. Sharing stories, getting to know each other, and giving gifts. The intent can be to harm Brett or to embarrass him (other boys from school bullying him). Or it could be a friendship.
  - Even though there is no suggestion the other person may attend the movie in this situation, they now know when and where Brett will attend.
  - Trust your gut but tell someone where you’re going and the situation. Take a friend.
- **Would you be more suspicious/concerned if Brett was a girl? Let’s say her name was Veronica? Would it matter if Veronica was talking to another girl online? Would that make the situation less suspicious?**
  - It shouldn’t matter in either case. Gender is not an issue. You have no idea who the other person is or their intention.
  - Safe options - talk online with cameras on, at least once, to establish each other’s identity. Tell someone where you’re going and the situation. Take a friend to a physical world meeting.

**2 – Maddy has been bullying a boy at school. She is nasty and hurtful and blames him for things he hasn’t done. The teachers believe her because she is always so sweet around them. Maddy began using the boy’s social media accounts to bully him online. How can this online bullying be used by the boy as evidence against Maddy?**

- Preferred responses

- Screenshot, save and forward the evidence to the school if this is part of the cyberbullying policy and/or show their parents to see what they recommend. Or just keep the evidence for the future, in case it's needed.
- Negative consequence - The boy could use this evidence to extort Maddy as he can now prove her behaviour. He could make Maddy do something she doesn't want to for fear of being found out. (This is to remind the bullies that their situation can be turned quickly.)
- The boy could simply tag others in her response to call out her behaviour to those who didn't believe him.
- All of this requires that the boy is brave enough to call Maddy out. It is likely many will suggest that the boy does nothing but ignore.

**3 – Harry's mum asked him to buy 2 books online using her credit card. Harry stores the credit card details in his device. He uses the card to buy game inapp purchases and inadvertently begins betting real money in a game. What rules have been broken?**

- Preferred responses
  - Don't store credit card details in your device. Enter each time. The owner of the credit card should do this themselves.
  - This is theft and the money will most likely have to be paid back to Mum. Consequences? Maybe banned from the games/devices. Depends on house rules.
  - This is an example of how the online world and physical world have rules and consequences. The same ethics apply. Stealing is stealing, regardless of how easy it feels to do online. It's no different to taking \$20 out of a friend's wallet at school.
  - Gambling is particularly problematic as it isn't always clear how much is owed when you play across different games. It adds up quickly.

**4 – Terry and Grace have been dating for a couple of weeks. Terry sends Grace an inappropriate picture and asks Grace to do the same. What should Grace do?**

- Preferred responses
  - Remember that images are for ever and today's relationships are tomorrow's potential problem. Images are permanent and people can use images to extort further action or embarrass or shame in the future.
  - Grace did not consent to receiving an inappropriate image. Sending the image is disrespectful and possibly causes harm, distress and/or fear.
  - Grace is the ONLY one who can decide to say no. Any further pressure indicates Terry's lack of respect and care.
  - **Research indicates about 1/3 of girls who are asked eventually sent the picture and most instantly regret it.<sup>1</sup> Don't send one or ask for one.**
- **What does the law say about taking inappropriate pictures of children that may be considered child exploitation materials?**
  - It is against the law to take, store or share them. The age of 'child' differs between states, but it always applies to year 7 and 8 students.

This may feel uncomfortable to teach however it is happening and it's best to get in front of the conversation. Give them the tools to say no or stop doing it. It's impact on mental health is great.

<sup>1</sup> Biddulph, S. 2017 '10 Things Girls Need Most' Simon & Schuster, London. p.138

