

Who's At Risk? Scenarios Teacher Suggestions Sheet

Identify any young people who are at risk online from being harmed.

1



Janie is 14 years old, she is regularly uses Instagram to post up photos of herself. Her profile tells people her real name and birthdate, her age, where she lives, her love for ponies and all her favourite things. Her profile settings are open to anyone to view her pictures.

Janie is increasing her risks of online harm by: posting images of herself on an open social media platform, posting lots of personal information for all to see.

2



Mike is 14 years old. His privacy settings are set to everyone. He has been friends online with Karla for 6 weeks. Karla says she is 15 years old and a big Spurs fan like him. He was introduced to Karla by another girl he met and chats to online, her name is Melissa. He does not know either girls offline. Both girls say they fancy him and want to meet up at a local beauty spot.

Mike is increasing his risk of online harm by: accepting friends online that he does not know in the offline world, considering meeting up with the girls who are really strangers to him as he cannot be sure they are who they say they are.

Mike would reduce his risk by: only accepting friends he knows in the offline world, having his privacy settings friends only, talking to a trusted adult about the request to meet up, not to go and meet up alone but with a trusted adult or not at all.

3



12 year old Rhian and Fatima both use WhatsApp group messaging to chat to Keisha's cousin Jay, in Cyprus. They send occasional photos back and forth. Jay is 16 years old.

Rhian and Fatima are in a closed chat group on WhatsApp. They may be safe to speak with the online cousin. He is however, an older boy and this could mean some of the content of the communications may not be age appropriate.

The girls would reduce their risk by: having other family members in the WhatsApp group chat.

4



Owain is a 13 year old boy. He loves gaming online and has accepted and struck up an online friendship with another boy called Rhys who lives in a nearby town. Owain told Rhys a lot of personal information about himself and talks to Rhys every day. Rhys has given Owain a lot of cheats when gaming. Rhys has asked for some photos. None of Owain's family are aware of this online friendship.

Resource 5c.

Owain is increasing his risk of online harm by: accepting a friendship request from a stranger, sharing a lot of personal information with this stranger, accepting favours from this online stranger, being asked for photos, not telling any trusted adult about this online friendship.

Owain would reduce his risk of online harm by: setting his privacy settings to friends only, by not talking to online strangers when he is gaming, by not giving personal information away to people online who are essentially strangers, by telling a trusted adult about the online friendship and the request for photos.

5



Molly is 13 years old and lives with her foster carer. She misses her old friends since she moved schools and uses online networking sites to keep in touch with everyone. Her privacy settings are open to everyone and she has 2,167 friends in her Facebook friends list.

Molly is increasing her risk of online harm by: allowing everybody to view her posts and not setting her privacy settings to friends only, having many strangers in her friends lists.

Molly could reduce her risk of online harm by setting her privacy settings to friends only and by unfriending the people she has accepted and that are strangers to her. Molly could talk to her carer or another trusted adult about her loneliness and need to see her friends.

6



A.J. is an active 14 year old boy and has just had a new phone. He had an unpleasant experience from online bullying, by a stranger he thought was his friend. Now he has his social media profile settings to friends only (People he also knows offline). He mainly uses his phone for texting, watching football and group chats with his mates. He doesn't really have a lot of time for social media.

A.J. has very few risks of online harm because he has learned from his previous experience of being bullied by strangers. He now sets his privacy settings to friends only.

7



Raisa is 10 years old. She plays online games regularly. Her parents have set privacy settings on her iPad and they are aware of the games she is playing and who she is playing with.

Raisa's parents have ensured the risk of online harm is reduced significantly. They have oversight of her use of the iPad and let her enjoy her games safely.

This is a good opportunity to ask pupils if they know for sure if their younger siblings are at risk of online harm. If they too have privacy settings set to friends only? What do they play? Are they at risk from strangers?