

Teaching Topic: Risks in Cyberspace - Sexual offences

Introduction

Along with the rapid development of technology, criminals begin to commit crimes by various means with the aid of technology. This lesson plan aims at helping teachers to explain to students at class the common online traps, so as to enhance their alertness and crime-prevention awareness.

Part 1: Will it be you?	Key Message(s)
<p>To start with, teacher may share with students some news stories of online crime traps and invite them to express their views, share their online habits in ordinary times as well as whether there are chances of them falling prey to and trapped by criminals.</p> <p>In response to the sharing of students, teacher may watch youth crime prevention video(s) with them and then make further discussion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guide students to reflect that they should not overestimate their own abilities to make judgments as there are indeed many traps in reality

Part 2: Role on the Wall / Youth Crime Prevention Video	Key Message(s)
<p>Play the video and then pause at the position at 1:12 (a message showed on the screen: Allow to access your contact list?). Stop the video here: The victim is going to click the hyperlink provided by the scammer, which is actually connected to a Trojan for hacking the contact list of the victim.</p> <p>Teacher divides the students into 4 or 5 people in a group to analyse the victim's case of being lured and extorted, including the crime motive of the scammer, why the victim has fallen into the trap and the consequential effects. Teacher should provide a role-play card to each group for careful study before conducting the analysis. Respective characters include the victim, the scammer, as well as the teacher, parents and friends of the victim.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guide the students to enter the characters in the video and rethink from various angles about the risk of falling prey to online traps, emphasizing the need to protect oneself

<p>Each group should also be given a character diagram on which the students should draw out the characters they represent. Besides, students should be given a question card for discussion.</p> <p>Teacher may then continue to play the video. Upon completion, teacher may guide students to contemplate the modus operandi employed by the criminals, how to avoid scams, and how should a person respond if he/she is in doubt of being scammed.</p>	
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Part 3: Decoding Scams	Key Message(s)
<p>Group Discussion (guided by teacher)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyse the intention of criminals and explain in detail the modus operandi employed by them. Special attention should be placed on avoiding to click casually any online hyperlinks provided by strangers as it may provide an opportunity for the scammer to access your personal information, credit card information, bank account information, contact list, etc. ● Analyse why the victim is so easily scammed ● Analyse the impacts of the case on the victim ● Homework: Try to play the character of the righteous angel and write a dialog for the purpose of advising the victim to beware of scam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guide the students to understand the modus operandi of criminals, understand why the victim would fall prey to the trap and analyse the impacts of the incident, so as to raise the students' awareness on self-protection

Part 4: Unlock the Crimes	Key Message(s)
<p>Teacher provides information on the case, inviting students to find out the common features of different cases (criminals will usually make friends with victims via social platforms). Teacher may help students to understand the modus operandi of different cases within a short period and thereby noting the related risk in the cyber world.</p> <p>Main Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many sexual offenders come from the Internet world and get in touch with young girls via various social platforms ● Criminals will try to please the youngsters (such as luring them with money or gifts) ● Victims are generally not vigilant enough and easy to take the words of the criminals ● Cases are usually related to sexual offences (such as unlawful sexual intercourse, naked chat blackmail and compensated dating scams) ● It is unlawful to have sex with girls under the age of 16. A relationship of lovers is not an excuse for the offence ● Tell the students to pay attention that the consent of both parties does not imply that it is lawful for them to have sex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many sexual offenders hide in the Internet world to lure youngsters in different manners ● Criminals will try to please the youngsters so as to win their trust ● Remind students not to trust strangers easily and that they should learn to protect themselves

Part 5: Conclusion

- Explain the trend of sexual offences in relation to the Internet world in recent years. In 2023, over 900 cases of naked chat blackmail and compensated dating scams concerning students were recorded. In recent years, increasing number of sexual abuse cases involving children or youngsters were recorded and the youngest victim last year was only nine years old.
- Reiterate the modus operandi of criminals: tracing and meeting with children or youngsters via social platforms or online games, creating illusionary “romantic” relationship and then luring them to have sex.
- Call on students to pay attention that the consent of both parties does not imply that it is lawful for them to have sex. It is unlawful to have sex with girls under the age of 16. A relationship of lovers is not an excuse for the offence.
- In case of suspected fraudulent/crime cases, students should forthwith seek help from parents or teachers and make a report to the Police.
- Remind students not to easily take the words of strangers and that they should learn to protect themselves.

Part 1: Will it be you?



01 News

There were almost 1400 child abuse and sexual abuse cases last year, representing an annual increase of more than 10%.

Some victims wrongly took that their photos wouldn't be leaked, then sent "view once" nude photos with mobile phone and then being threatened by male online friend to have sex.

Will there be a chance for you to become a victim mentioned in the headline?



01 News

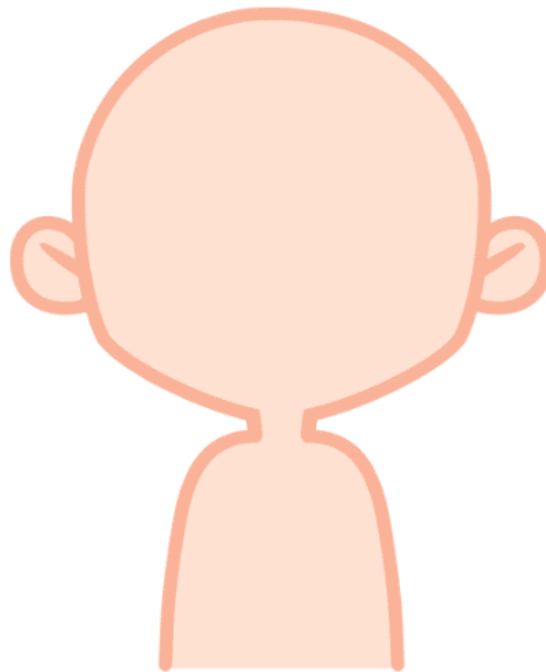
Lured by scammers to take intimate photos through online games.

The Police received 24 reports of students being sexually abused by online friends in the first half of the year (2024). The youngest victim was just 9 years old.

~~YES~~ NO

Part 2: Role on the Wall / Youth Crime Prevention Video

Character (victim/scammer/family members/teacher/close friend)



Role-play card

Scammer

A male youth in his 20s who often make friends with youngsters, especially secondary school students, through social platforms. He will also use voice changing application(s) to impersonate female, so as to make friends with male secondary school students in an attempt to scam or blackmail them.

“Male secondary school students are certainly the premier choice for scams! Being in puberty, they are especially curious about the opposite sex, lack of vigilance, and are most easily scammed! It’s so easy to make money from them!”

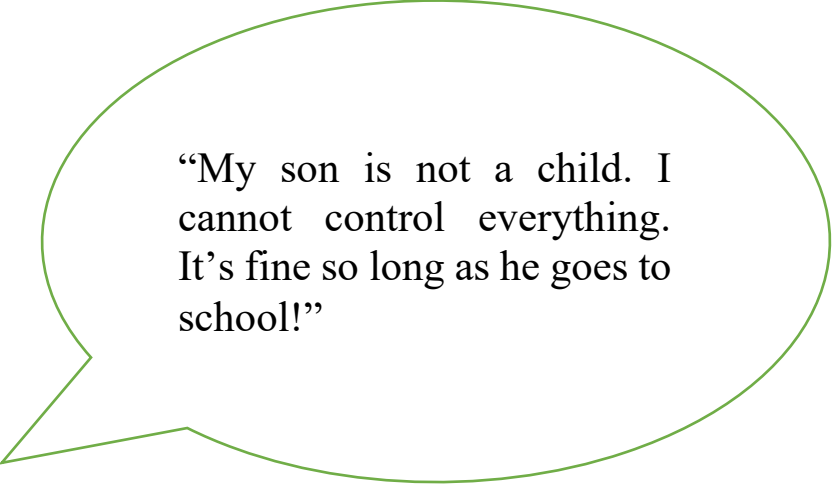
Victim

A Form one male student who likes gaming (online games) sometimes makes new friends through social networking mobile applications. All his friends are dating and he also wants to get a girlfriend and develop a romantic relationship.

“Everyone is dating, only I am alone. It’s so boring! I’d better get online to find a girlfriend!”

Victim's family members

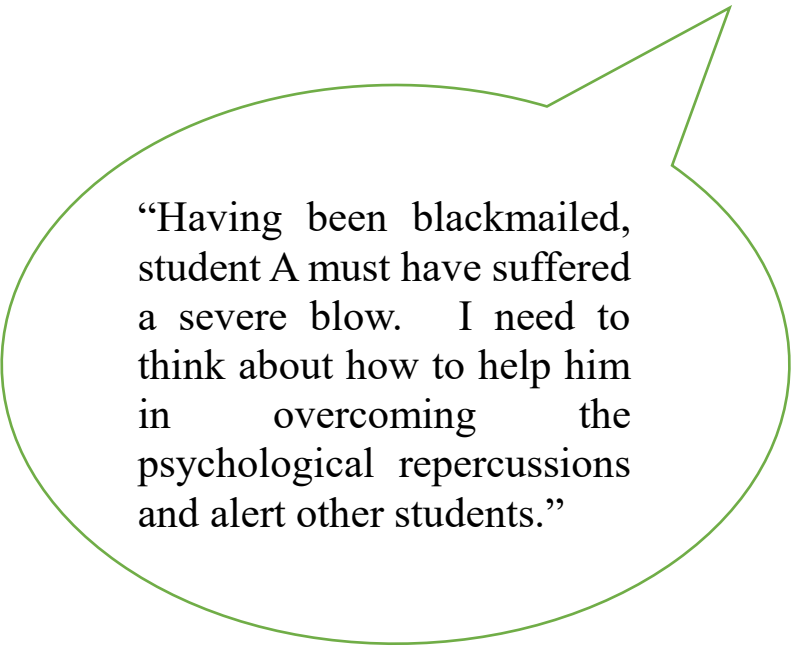
Parents have to work and will generally return home after dinner. They are very concerned about the academic result of the victim but have not monitored and restricted the use of Internet by the victim.



“My son is not a child. I cannot control everything. It's fine so long as he goes to school!”

Victim's teacher

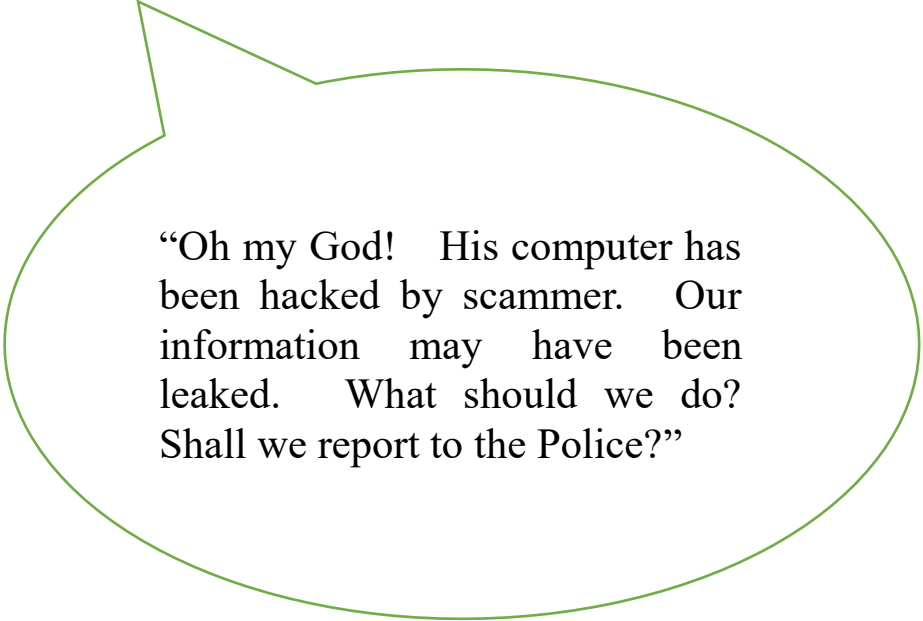
The victim's teacher has all along been very concerned about the academic result and personal development of his/her students. Recently, noticing that quite a number of students often use online social networking mobile applications, the teacher has repeatedly reminded them about the risk in the Internet world.



“Having been blackmailed, student A must have suffered a severe blow. I need to think about how to help him in overcoming the psychological repercussions and alert other students.”

Victim's close friend

Just like the victim, his friend is also fond of online games and has tried to make new friends through social networking mobile applications. Having been blackmailed, the victim forthwith contacts his close friend to look for a solution.



“Oh my God! His computer has been hacked by scammer. Our information may have been leaked. What should we do? Shall we report to the Police?”

Question card

(Scammer)

- Why would the scammer scam and blackmail the victim?
- What are the benefits that a scammer can get after scamming and blackmailing the victim?



Question card

(Victim)

- How did the victim get to know the scammer?
- Why was the scammer interested in the victim's information?
- What's the result of acceding to the requests of the scammer?
- How should I say no if I want to refuse to his requests?
- How should I tackle the blackmail?



Question card

(Victim's family members)

- What difficulties will be faced by the victim if he has been scammed or blackmailed?
- What will you do as a family member if the victim has been blackmailed?



Question card

(Victim's teacher)

- What difficulties will be faced by the victim if he has been scammed or blackmailed?
- What problems may be faced by the victim upon returning to school?



Question card

(Victim's close friend)

- What difficulties will be faced by the victim if he has been scammed or blackmailed?
- What will you do as a close friend if you suspect that the victim has been scammed online or has fallen prey to other crimes?
- At the end, if you have been affected by the incident, will you remain to be his friend? Why?



Part 3: Decoding Scams

<p>Intention of the criminals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Obtain nude photos of the victim and then blackmail for money.
<p>Why the victim was easily scammed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Immature and take the words of strangers easily. ● Lack of rational analysing power and being dominated by personal emotion and curiosity when making decisions. ● Lack of self-protection awareness. ● Lack of crime prevention awareness and never doubt the identity of the scammer.
<p>Impact on the victim</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Parents are saddened by the scam of their son and restricted him on the use of Internet and social media mobile applications.</p> <p>Relationship with his friend becomes estranged since he has been adversely affected by the incident and his private information has been stolen.</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <pre> graph TD A[Impact on the victim] --> B[Freedom] A --> C[Self-image] A --> D[Emotion] A --> E[Monetary Loss] A --> F[Interpersonal relationship] </pre> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>He may feel stupid for being scammed.</p> <p>Other students may mock him behind his back upon knowing that he has been scammed.</p> <p>As his nude photos have been leaked, he often worries that the photos have been circulated on the Internet and therefore endures psychological distress.</p> </div> </div>

<p>How can the victim avoid being scammed?</p>	<p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Seek assistance from family members or teacher in the first place if you suspect that you have been scammed.● You should stay vigilant at all times and should not trust others easily.● Do not provide private information to online friends.● Beware of suspicious strangers, refuse unknown telephone calls or video calls.
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Act as righteous angel and write a dialog for the purpose of advising the victim to beware of scam -



Don't trust strangers easily! It's too risky to show her your photos as you have met her just a few minutes ago! Who is she/he actually? You hardly know her/his identity yet! Don't be scammed!

Calm down! Calm down! Didn't you see the reminder message? The message asked if you would "allow access to your contact list"! Did you note that for sure? You'll be in big trouble if the information and phone numbers in your contact list have been stolen!



Part 4: Unlock the Crimes

	Case summary	Age of victim	Key message(s)	Mentality of the victim	Criminal liability
Case 1	<p>In November 2022, the 27-year-old defendant followed the Instagram account of a 14-year-old young girl X and made friend with her. The defendant made several attempts to lure X to have sex with him. X revealed to the defendant that she was just a 14-year-old Form three student and asked him whether he was afraid that it might cause him to be jailed. However, the defendant claimed that “It’s OK if we both consent to it.” X took his words and gave her consent.</p> <p>Later on, X’s family members discovered the case and made a report to the Police. The defendant was eventually convicted of “Having unlawful sexual intercourse with girls under 16” and sentenced to 14 months’ imprisonment.</p>	14	The defendant met the victim at social platform, had the premeditation of having sex with the victim and misled the victim	Not vigilant enough and too easy to take the words of strangers	14 months’ imprisonment

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Case 2	<p>A 15-year-old young girl met a 31-year-old male at social platform. After having sexual intercourse, the young girl was lured to engage in vice activities and only rewarded with 1,000 dollars and a counterfeit handbag afterwards. The Police discovered after investigation that there was also another 15-year-old young girl being controlled for vice activities.</p> <p>The Police subsequently arrested 3 males and 1 female for various alleged sexual offences. Eventually, they were all found guilty and sentenced to 18 months' to 45 months' imprisonment respectively.</p>	15	The defendant met the victim at social platform, had sex with the victim and lured the victim to engage in vice activities	Tempted by pecuniary interests and lack of self-protection awareness	18 to 45 months' imprisonment
Case 3	<p>A 12-year-old young girl met a 17-year-old male at social platform. Later on, they became lovers and had sex. Family members of the young girl discovered the case and made a report to the Police.</p> <p>The male was convicted of "Having unlawful sexual intercourse with girls under the age of 13" and sentenced to 160 hours' community service order.</p>	12	The two parties met at social platform and became lovers but the law stipulates that it is unlawful to have sex with girls under 16	Wrongly took that they could have sex if they both agreed to do so	160 hours' community service order

Conclusion:

**Many sexual offenders hide in the Internet world
to lure youngsters in different manners.**

**Do not easily take the words of strangers but learn
to protect yourself!**