

Communication Scenario Answers

1. On Sam's twelfth birthday his mum texts him a happy birthday message with a picture of Sam in the bath aged two. His mum shouldn't have done this because he isn't wearing any clothes in the photo and now everyone will be able to see it.

FALSE: No one else will see the picture if his mum has sent it to him as a private message and he doesn't share it with anyone. He might still want to speak to his mum and ask her not to send this kind of photo by phone.

2. Sophie has an online friend who lives in Germany and has sent her some pictures of her house and her pets; she asks Sophie to send her some photos of what her house looks like. It is OK for Sophie to do this because her online friend lives in a different country.

FALSE: If Sophie has not met this friend in person she cannot be sure whether they are who they say they are. Sophie cannot be certain of any of the things this person has told her: name, age, gender, where she lives, how many pets she has etc.

3. Maria fell out with her best friend a few weeks ago. Recently she's started getting horrible texts from an unknown number. She knows that the best thing to do is send a reply telling them to leave her alone and then block the number and tell her parents.

TRUE: The person sending the texts will be hoping for a response from Maria so it is best to ignore them and they will be more likely to give up. Maria could also save the texts being sent to her so she has some evidence if her parents want to investigate the matter further. Using the phone to bully someone in this way is called cyberbullying.

4. Ayman's friend has told him that this girl at school really fancies him. Ayman is too shy to speak to her. His friend says it would be safe for Ayman to send her his mobile number in a private message on Facebook.

TRUE: Ayman and his friend both know this girl and she is at their school. Using the private message facility, he is indicating that the information is not for sharing publicly. There is no bigger risk with this than Ayman giving her his phone number in person.

5. Leroy's older brother lets him use his games console when he's out. He said it is safe for Leroy to use it on his own because all his 16-rated games are password protected.

FALSE: Leroy has only partially addressed the risk. All games consoles have parental controls, which make it possible to restrict access to inappropriate sites, but these need to be set up carefully to ensure children aren't able to set up another account themselves with a false age.

6. While Jade is away on summer holiday her boyfriend asks her to send him a picture of her on the beach. She is uncomfortable with doing this because once you send a picture from your phone, there is no way of getting it back or deleting it.

TRUE: As soon as a person presses the send button on their phone, they are no longer in control of that picture. The person who receives it might send it on to their friend, who might send it on to someone else.

7. Amy has sent her best friend Denise a really funny picture of a boy at school, which he sent her as a private message. Denise tells Amy she shouldn't have shared it with her because it's wrong to share private messages or pictures, even with your best friend.

TRUE: A private message means just that: private ie not for sharing. Friends should be able to trust one another.

8. One of Ali's Instant Messenger buddies has asked him to meet up with him in the local park. Ali replies to say he can't go without an adult's permission. Ali should give his mum's phone number so the buddy can call her and check it's OK.

FALSE: Although Ali is correct to say he shouldn't go and meet someone he's met online without checking with an adult, his mum's phone number is also private information and he shouldn't share this with someone he doesn't know properly in person. He could also be putting his mum at risk from this person.