

SAMIR & HIS ONLINE FRIEND



NOTE TO READER

Child sexual abuse can take place online through the internet and social media applications. It takes different forms including grooming, sexting, coercing and blackmailing children for sexual purposes.

Online child sexual abuse affects all types of children including children with disabilities. These children are more at risk of sexual abuse because disabilities often create vulnerabilities.

For example, cognitive or communication challenges may affect a child's ability to understand or disclose abuse or to ask for help.

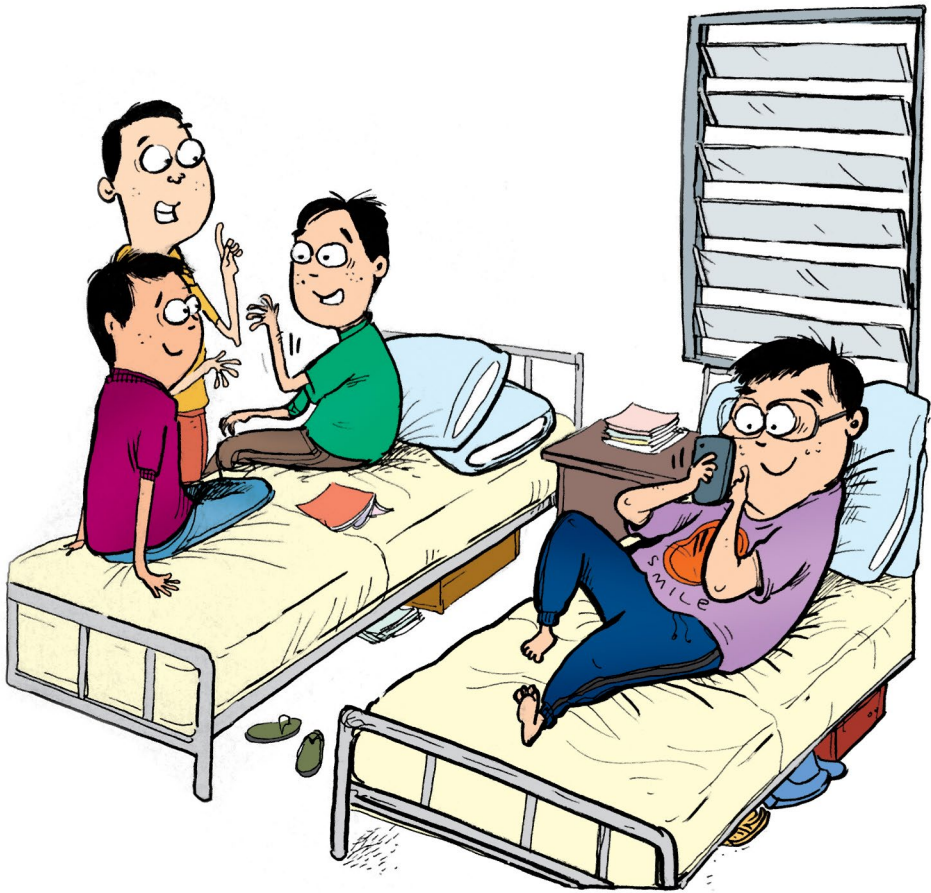
This story is about online sexual abuse involving a Deaf boy. Deaf children access and use the internet and social media just like hearing children. They communicate online via texting/messaging and can also use Sign Language during a video call. If a child is isolated or feeling lonely, he/she can be easily targeted by online abusers.



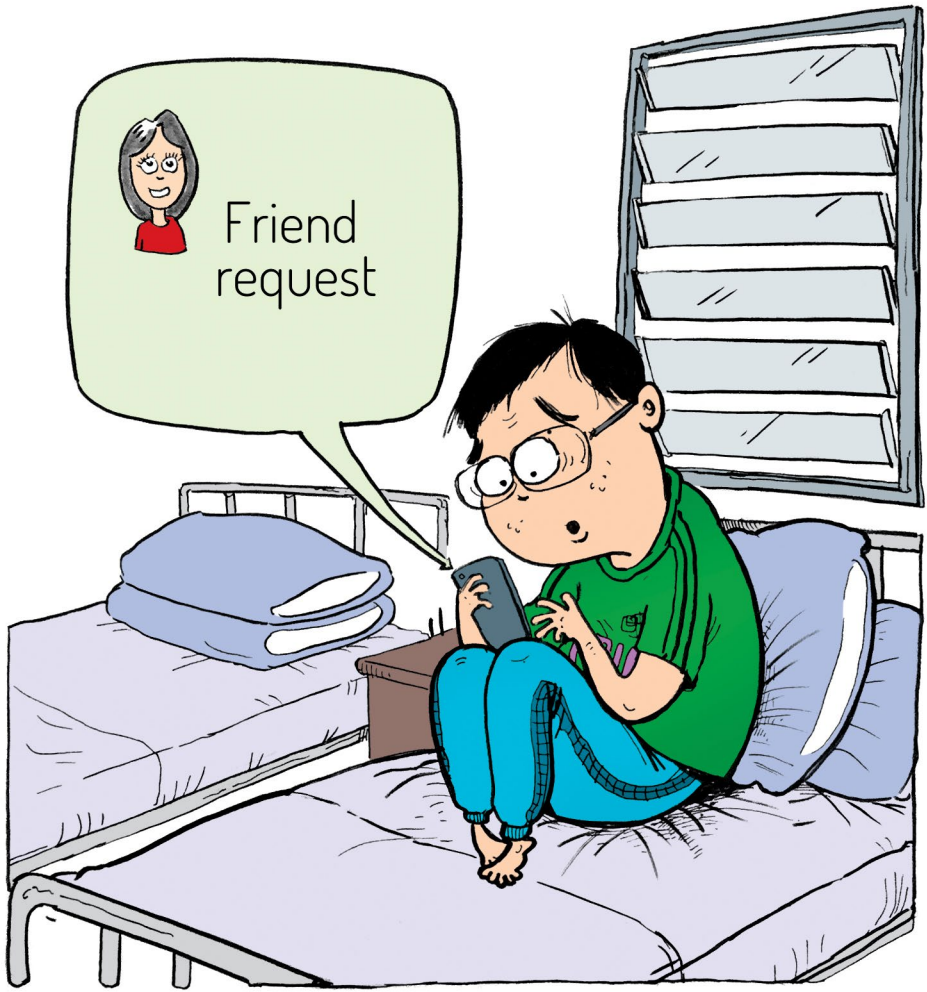
Samir is a 15-year-old Deaf boy.
He attends a Special Education
Secondary School.



Samir stays in the school hostel.
His parents visit him once a month.



Samir is a quiet person. After school, Samir is allowed to use his handphone with permission from the hostel warden. He texts his parents. He also plays online games.



One day during an online game,
he gets a friend request from a
girl called Candy. He accepts.



He gets an immediate reply from Candy.

“Hi Samir, your scores are great!

Wish I could play like you!”



Samir is surprised but he feels happy.
A girl has noticed him and praised him.



The next evening, Samir notices
Candy online. Candy messages,
“I like how you play, Samir.
You are amazing!”



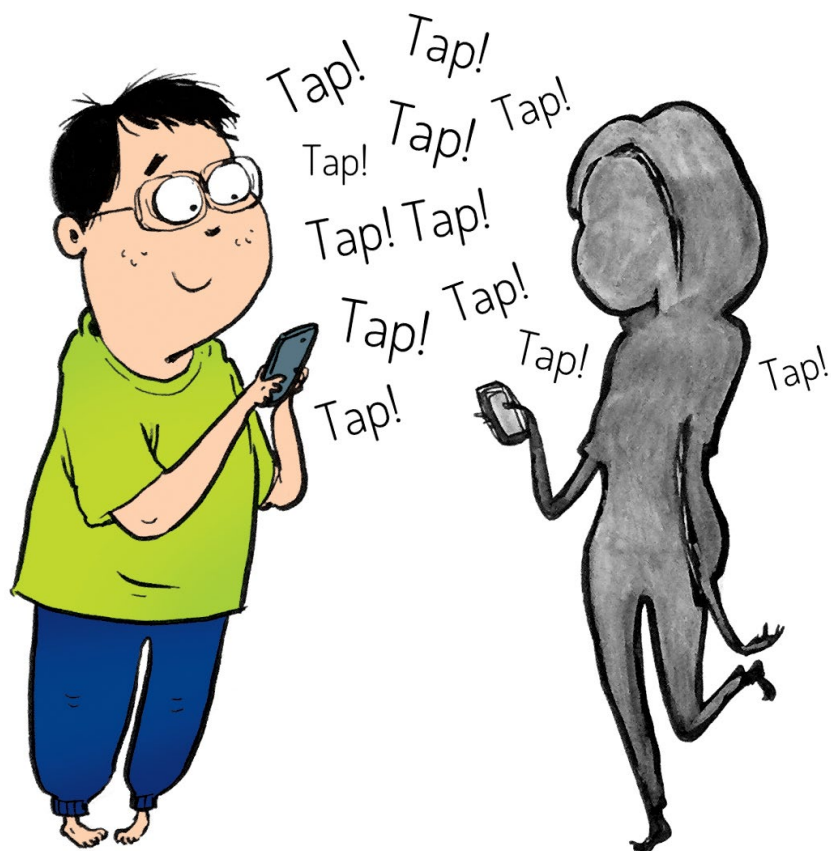
Candy messages Samir each time he comes online. Candy starts to ask for game tips. Samir was shy at first but begins to give her tips.



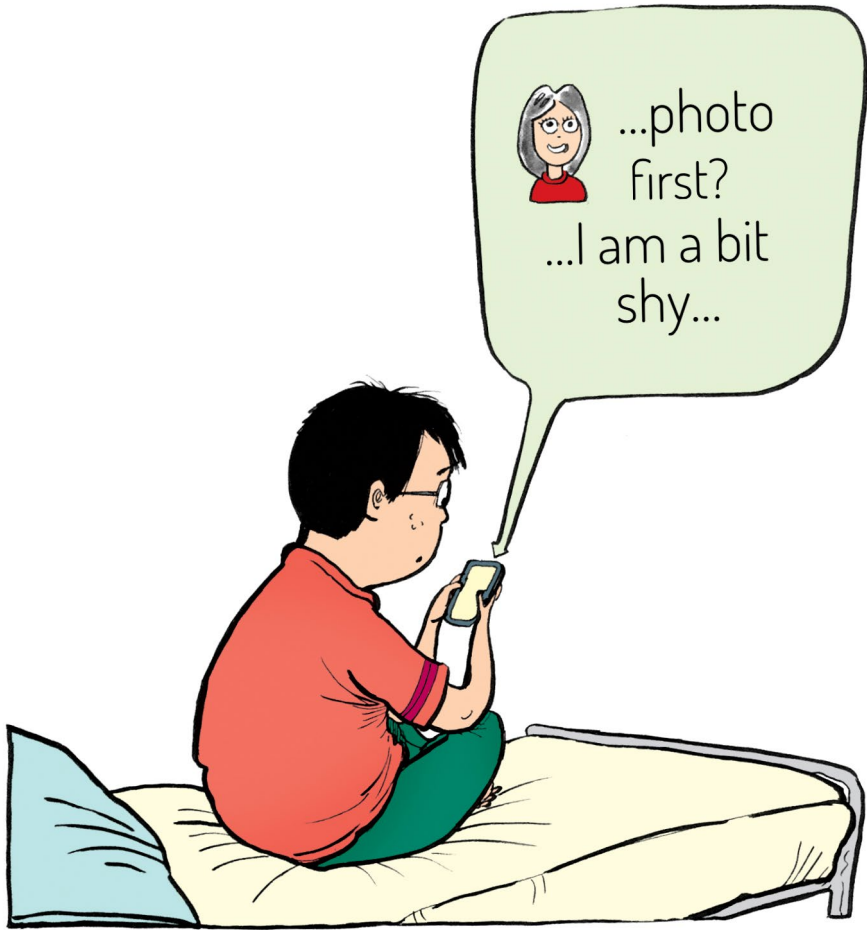
Soon after, Candy begins to asks Samir about himself, his school and friends. Samir starts to share things about himself, being deaf, his school and how lonely he feels.



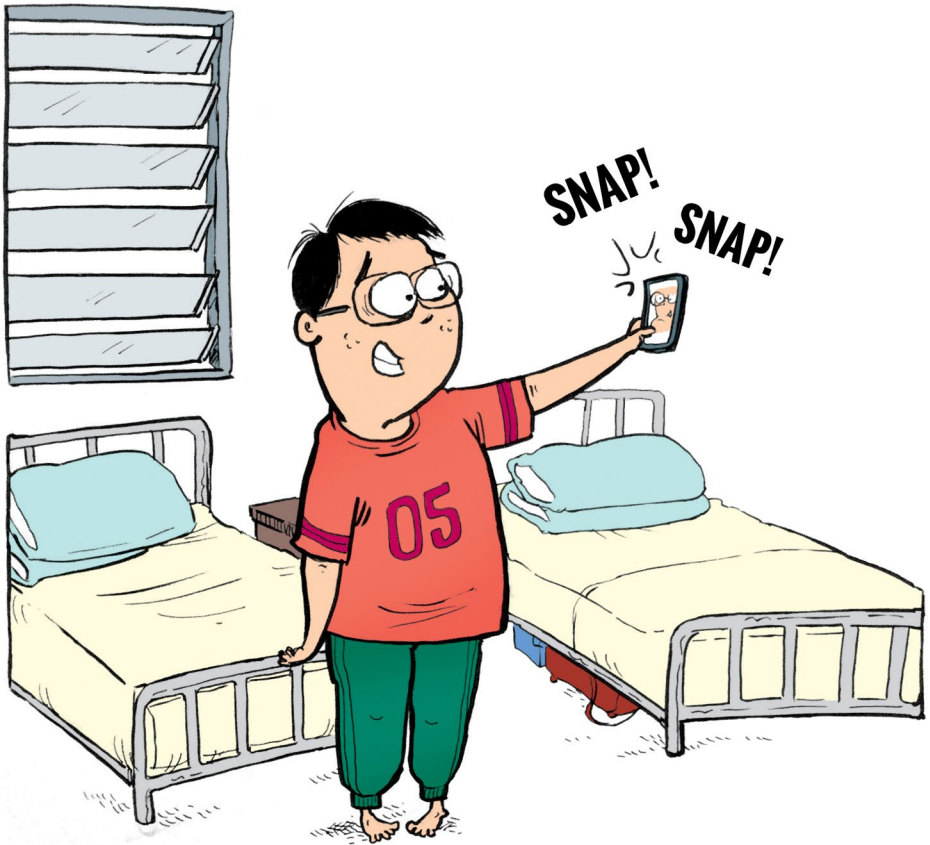
Candy texts him, “I understand.
You see I am Deaf too. I want to be
your friend. You can trust me.”



Samir and Candy exchange
phone numbers and begin
messaging each other daily.



One evening Samir messages Candy asking to meet up. Candy replies,
“How about a photo first?
I am a bit shy.”



Samir takes a selfie and sends it to Candy. Candy replies, “OMG handsome-lah you!”



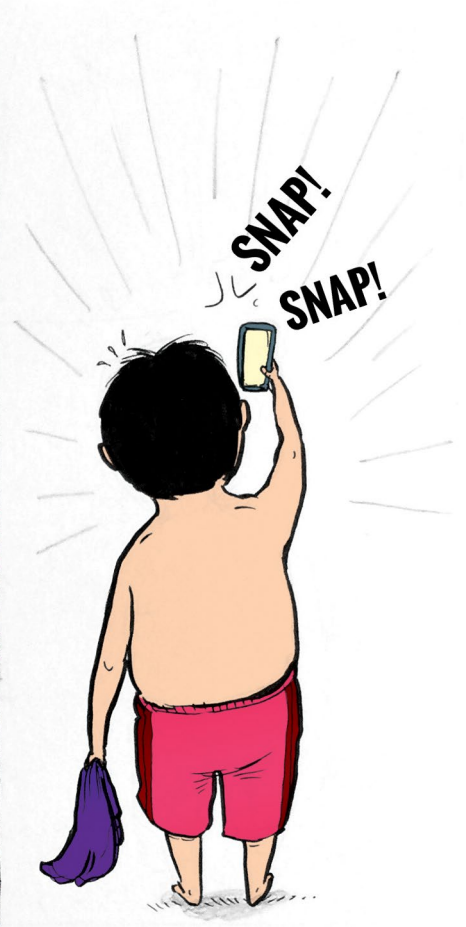
Candy sends a photo back to him.
Samir thinks, “Wow! Candy is so beautiful.
I am lucky.” Samir and Candy start to
exchange more photos of themselves.



A few days later Candy messages Samir, “I want to get to know you better Samir.... as my boyfriend”. Samir receives a photo of Candy without a blouse on.



Samir is embarrassed and confused. Candy asks Samir for a photo of himself without his T-shirt. He does not respond.



Then, Candy messages him, “It’s ok if you don’t want to, Samir. I will find a boyfriend who really trusts me.” Samir reluctantly sends a selfie of himself without his T-shirt on.



Candy replies, “I can’t wait to meet you”,
and asks for more intimate photos.
Samir is scared to lose Candy.
He does what Candy asks.



A few days later, Candy invites Samir to meet up outside the school gate at 6pm the next day.



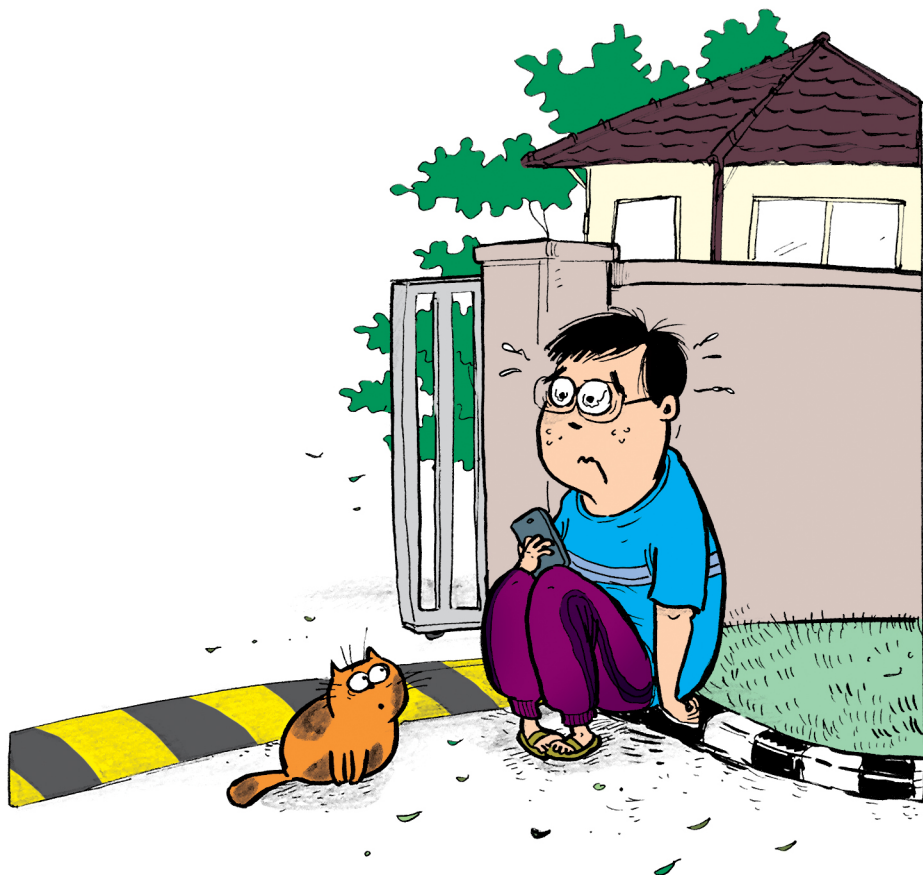
When Samir goes to meet Candy, there is a man at the gate who points at Samir's phone. Samir looks at his phone and sees the message, "Hello, I am Candy."



Samir is shocked. The man then shows his phone to Samir. Samir sees the intimate photos he has sent Candy.



The man messages Samir asking for money otherwise he will upload the photos online. He messages Samir he will collect the money the next day and walks away.



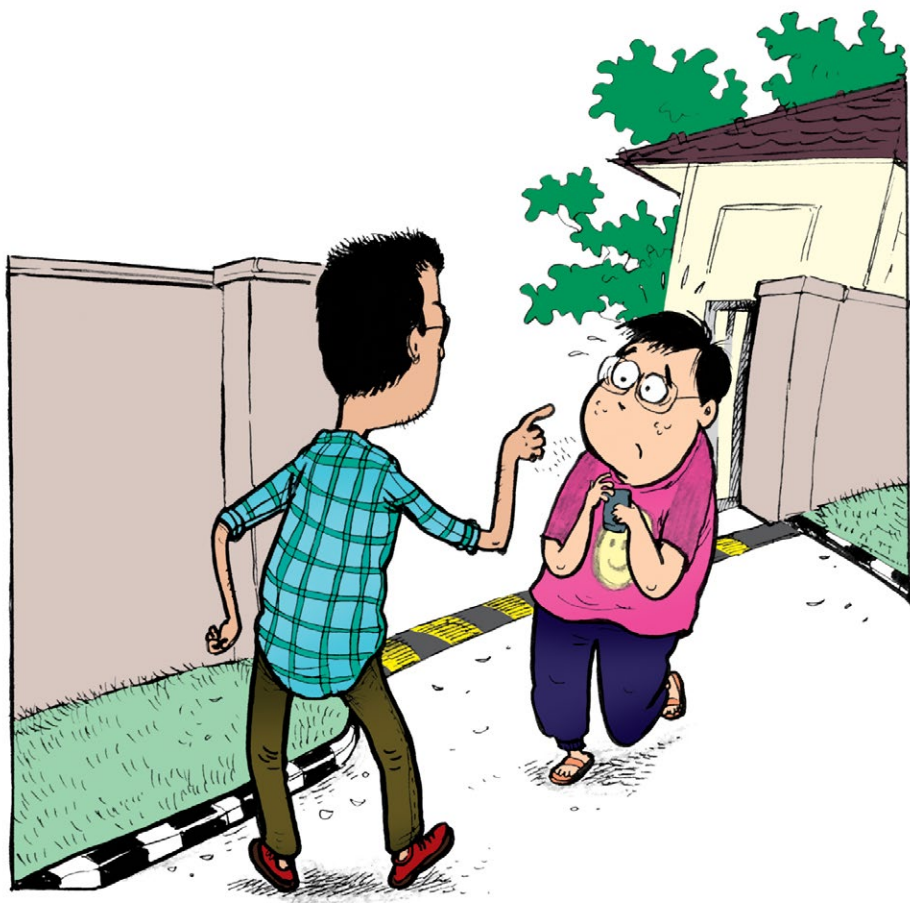
Samir does not know what to do.
He is shocked that 'Candy' is actually
a man who is now trying to get
money from him.



Samir is very worried. He wonders,
“What will happen if my photos
get uploaded online?”



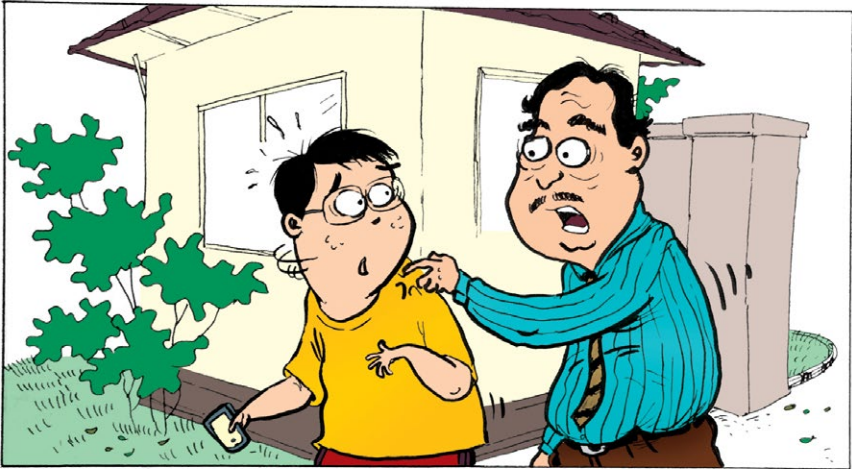
The next day, Samir meets the man and pays him. The man then asks for more money. He messages Samir he will come back the following Monday.



The man warns Samir that the photos will be uploaded if he tells anyone about it. Feeling frightened, he agrees to pay the man again.



The school gardener, Uncle Somi, notices Samir meeting a man outside the school gate every Monday evening. He sees Samir giving the man money. Uncle Somi informs the hostel warden, Mr Alex.



The next Monday, Mr Alex waits at the gate and observes what is happening. When Samir returns, Mr Alex taps him on the shoulder and signs, “Who is that man? Why are you giving him money?”



Samir remains silent. He remembers the man's warning. He is scared. Mr Alex signs again, "Are you in trouble? Let me help you."



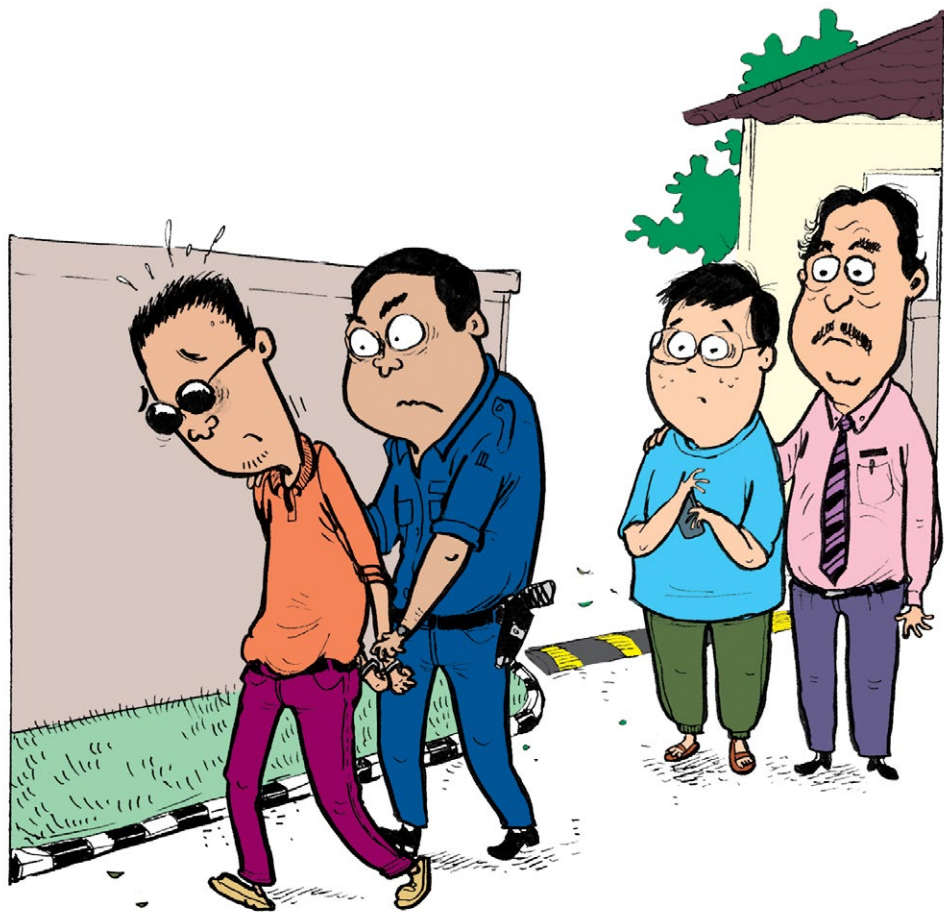
Samir then signs to Mr Alex about 'Candy', the photos and the payments he is making to the man. Mr Alex is shocked.



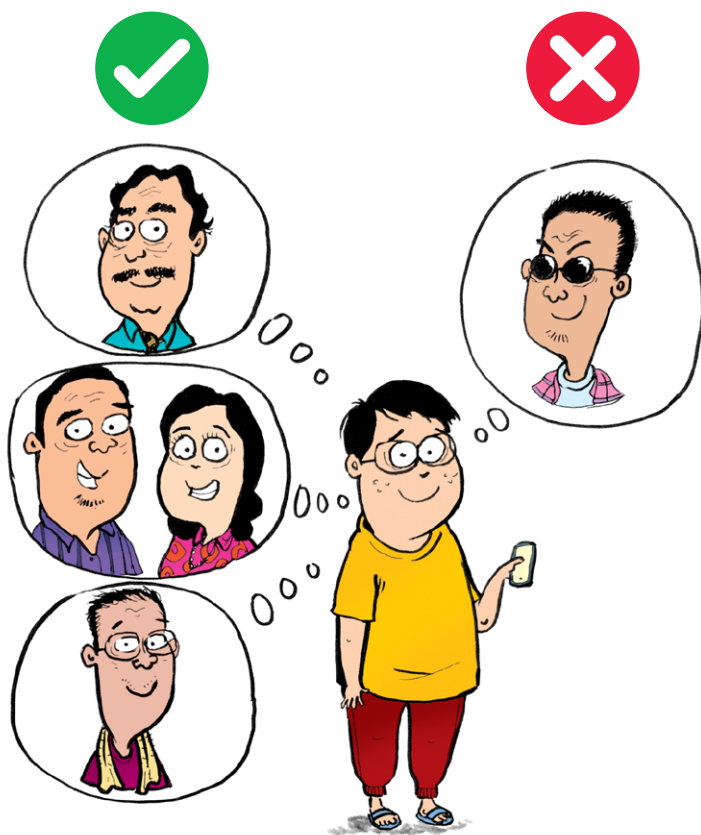
Mr Alex signs to Samir, “This man has tricked you and is now blackmailing you. It is not your fault. We need to stop this.”



Mr Alex quickly calls Samir's parents. They come to the school and together with Mr Alex lodge a police report.

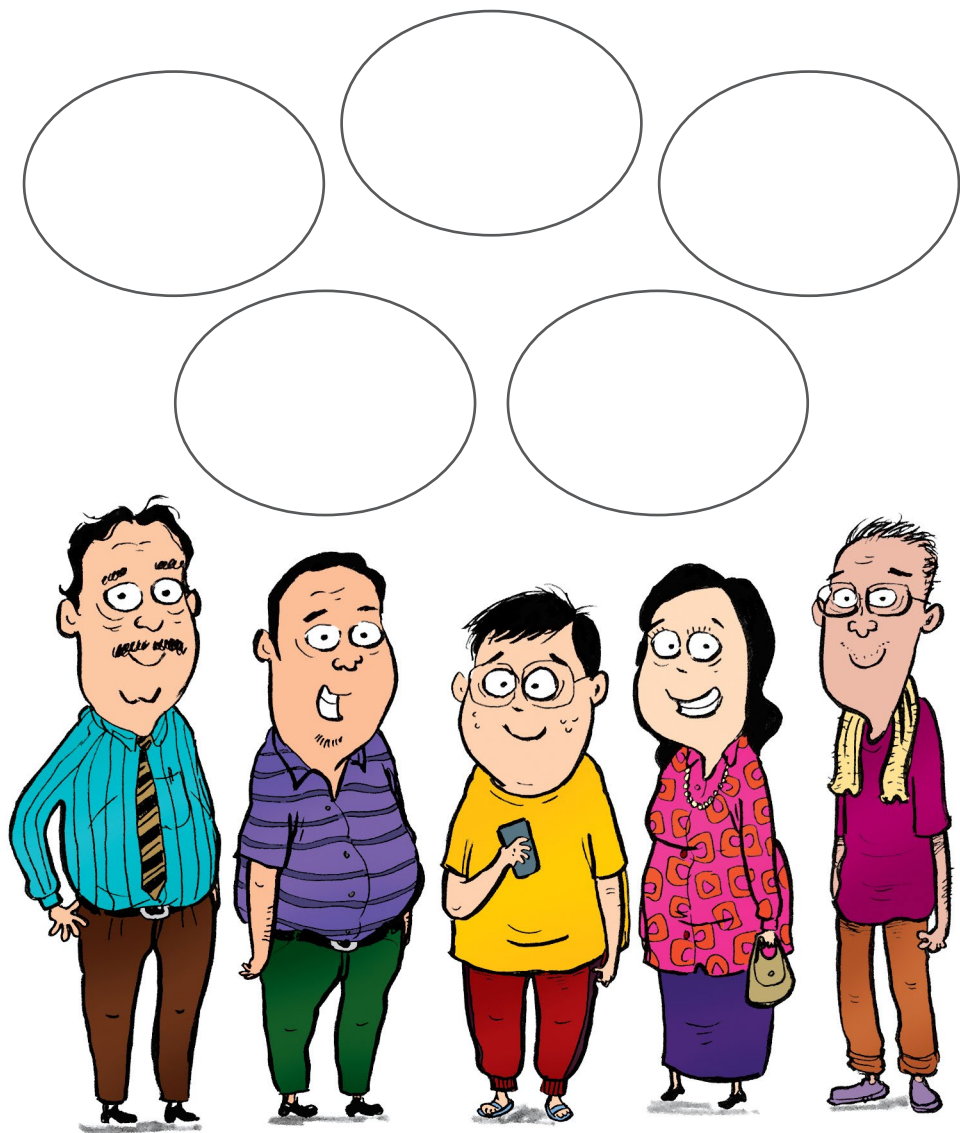


The next Monday when the man comes to collect the money from Samir, he is arrested by the police. The police find photos of Samir and other young boys and girls on the man's handphone.



Remember this: When online, do not share personal information or photographs with people you have not met in person.

If an online friend makes you feel uncomfortable, confused or threatens you, tell a trusted adult what has happened. That's the way you can get help to stop the abuse.



Fill in the bubbles with the names of people whom you trust and who can help you.



The Women's Centre for Change is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to end violence against women and children, and promote gender equality and social justice.

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