The Digital Detective: Navigating Online Safety

1. Needs Action. Do not create the account. Do not share personal information like your full name or birthday with unknown sites. (2 marks)

Working: Personal information should be protected to maintain privacy.

1 mark for identifying 'Needs Action', 1 mark for explaining not to share personal details.

2. Needs Action. Do not reply to the messages. Block the user and report the account to the platform, then tell a trusted adult. (2 marks)

Look for: The student must identify that they should not engage with the bully and must involve an adult.

Good: Block the person and tell a teacher or parent.

Better: Do not reply to the unkind messages, block the user, and tell a trusted adult so they can help.

Best: Do not reply, as this can make it worse. Block and report the user to the platform, then tell a trusted adult immediately so they are aware of the situation.

What moves an answer up: The best answer includes the 'why' (not replying) and the specific action of reporting to the platform.

3. Needs Action. This is likely a phishing attempt. Do not click the link or enter your email address. Tell a trusted adult. (2 marks)

Working: Offers that seem too good to be true are often scams designed to steal personal data.

1 mark for identifying it is not safe, 1 mark for explaining it is a scam/phishing.

4. Passwords protect your personal information and digital identity. If someone else has your password, they could pretend to be you or access your private accounts. (2 marks)

Look for: The student must explain the risk of identity theft or loss of account control.

Good: Because someone else might use your account.

Better: It is important because your password keeps your personal information safe from people who might misuse it.

Best: Passwords are the key to your digital identity. If you share them, someone else could access your private data or pretend to be you online.

What moves an answer up: The best answer uses more precise vocabulary like 'digital identity' and 'private data'.

5. Stop using the device, do not delete the evidence, and tell a trusted adult (like a parent, carer, or teacher) immediately. (2 marks)

Look for: The student must identify the need to involve an adult and keep the evidence.

Good: Tell a trusted adult about it.

Better: Tell a trusted adult, like a teacher or parent, so they can help you deal with the problem.

Best: Stop what you are doing, keep the evidence by not deleting it, and tell a trusted adult immediately so they can support you.

What moves an answer up: The best answer includes the crucial step of keeping the evidence for the adult to see.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates that the child understands they are not alone in managing online risks and that involving a trusted adult is the priority. They should show caution regarding sharing personal data.

If your child is stuck

Ask your child: 'If you were in this situation, who is the first person you would go to for help?' Remind them that they don't have to solve online problems by themselves.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often think they should delete messages or images if they are upset, but they should keep them as evidence. They also sometimes underestimate the value of their personal information (like birthdays).