TABLE TOP EXERCISE • CHILD EXPLOITATION

Internet Addiction

THE SITUATION

A student in the eighth grade has been spending excessive time gaming online while at school and often late into the night. Recently, they began withdrawing from friends and showing signs of anxiety. A teacher overhears classmates saying the student was pressured into sending personal photos to someone they met in an online game. The student is now being threatened and blackmailed, and they are afraid to tell anyone.

THE TASK

Develop a response plan that outlines the investigation and student support. This may be complemented by a digital safety checklist for students, teachers, and parents and a prevention education strategy.

Group Name

ROLES

School Administrator
Oversees the response, ensures policy compliance, and liases with law enforcement and the National CIRT.

Guidance Counsellor
Supports the student emotionally and educates on digital safety and online risks.

IT Support Staff
Advises on cybersecurity best practices and adjusts the network to prevent access to online gaming websites.

Legal Advisor
Ensures the case is being handled appropriately, considering laws on online exploitation.

Teacher
Notices the student's issue, identifies warning signs, engages with the student, and helps inform the response.

Law Enforcement
Investigates potential criminal activity.

PARTICIPANT NAMES

OPTIONAL DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. What warning signs of internet addiction were missed?
2. What steps should be taken to protect the student and stop further harm?
3. How can the school help students identify grooming and online predatory behaviour?
4. What policies should be put in place for internet use and online gaming safety?