This resource accompanies the 'Helping neurodiverse young people consider what is 'true' online' film.

It provides a suggested activity to help you discuss with your neurodiverse child that not all online information is trustworthy, and that this can affect the choices that they make online. The activity is suitable for most children aged 10 onwards.

Note: This activity provides some suggested strategies for use with neurodiverse young people. Depending on the needs of your child, you may wish to run the activity differently. If the example provided is not suitable, you could choose an example based on your child's online experiences.

Before running the activity

☑ Watch the 'Helping neurodiverse young people consider what is 'true' online' film.

☑ Print out and cut up the emotion cards (page 3) and choice cards (page 4). Alternatively, you can display these on your device's screen and refer to them in your discussion with your child.

☑ Print the WhatsApp chat example (page 2) or display it on your device's screen.

Running the activity

Before showing your child WhatsApp chat example, show the emotion cards from page 3 to your child and check how familiar they are with the different emotions. You may wish to just use the emotion cards that they are familiar with.

Explain to your child that they will be looking at a situation that can happen online and will consider what it makes them feel, what they might do/say as a result and what might happen next.

Show your child the WhatsApp chat example (page 2) and discuss what it shows. Each message is coming from someone who is considered to be a trusted friend, and the link that has been shared is what must be judged as being 'true' or 'untrue'. You may need to discuss the meaning of the word 'hoax' if your child is unfamiliar with it. This example may also prompt a discussion about your child's beliefs and understanding of global warming.

Ask your child to imagine that they see this conversation amongst their friends and to consider what it would make them feel. They can hold up one or more emotion cards and you can discuss why they might have these feelings.

Using the choice cards (page 4), ask your child to decide what they would do or say next. Discuss with your child why they might take that action.
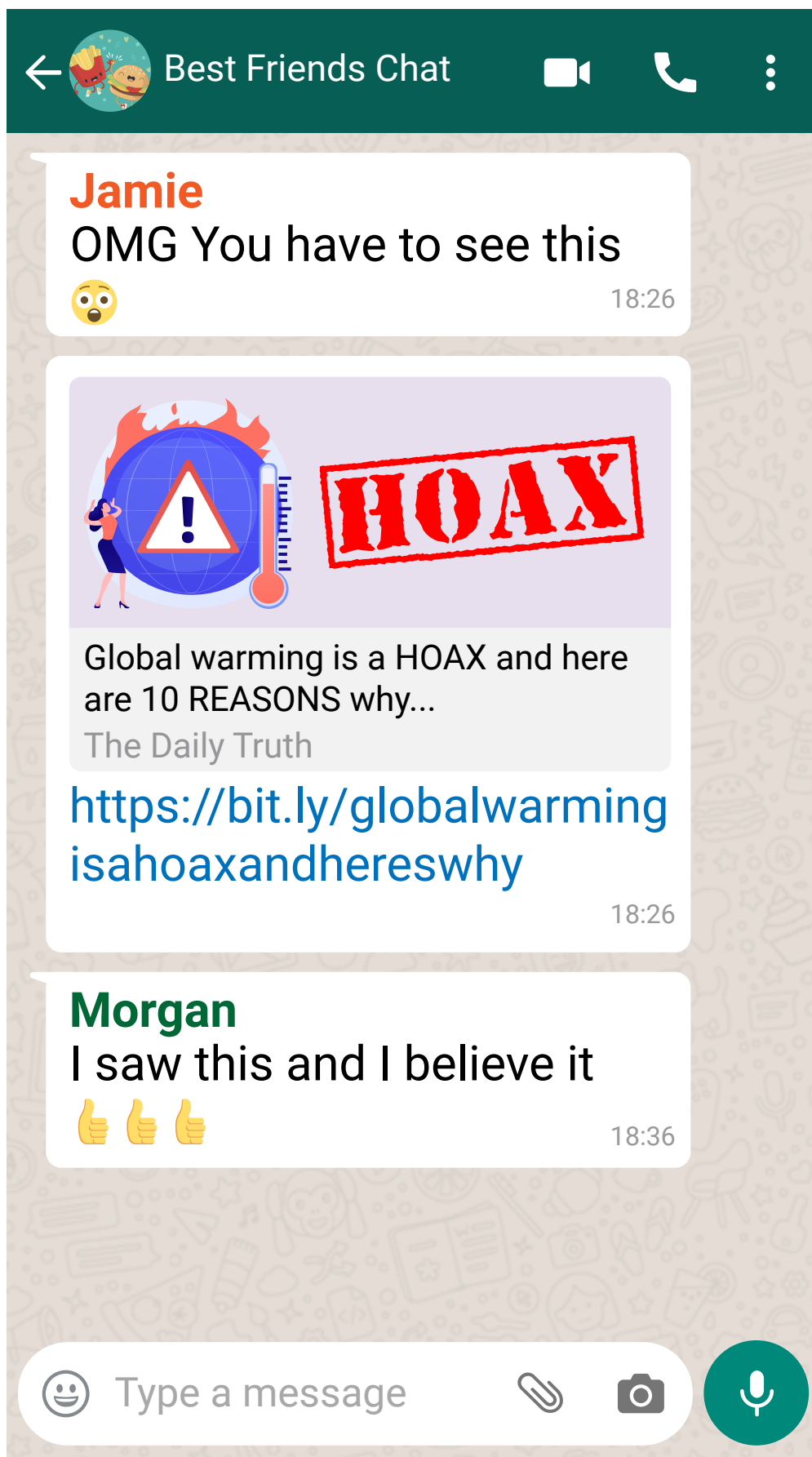
Finally, ask your child to consider what they think might happen as a result of their action and discuss if that is something that would be safe or unsafe, or would make the situation better or worse.

As part of the discussion, it is useful to consider the following advice:

✅ Online articles may give the author's opinion rather than facts, or a mixture of both.

✅ People may choose and show only the information that matches their opinion.

✅ Using different websites (or sources of information) can help to learn more about something.

✅ If something looks different to what you expect or think, ask an adult to help you understand it.

What next?

Agree with your child 1-2 actions they could take to respond to this online situation in a way that might keep them safe. Encourage them to always speak to you or a trusted adult if they are unsure or worried about an online experience.

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← **Best Friends Chat**

Jamie
OMG You have to see this
😲
18:26

Global warming is a HOAX and here are 10 REASONS why...
The Daily Truth

https://bit.ly/globalwarming
isahoaxandhereswhy
18:26

Morgan
I saw this and I believe it
👍 👍 👍
18:36

Type a message

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happy	sad	excited
scared	frustrated	worried
angry	confused	lonely

a different emotion

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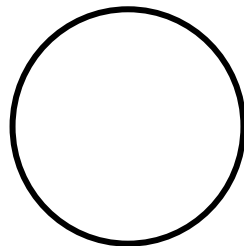
I don't trust
anything that
has been said
or shared

I press/click
the link to
find out more

I say
something
in the chat

Something
else

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