

Cyber-Bullying

Although mobile phones and computers have made it easier for us to stay in touch with our friends, they have also made it easier for bullies to reach their victims. This type of online abuse is known as cyber-bullying, and this article looks at some of the issues surrounding the problem.

HALF of all young people say that cyber-bullying is part of everyday life

More than half of children and young people in England accept cyber-bullying as a part of everyday life, a new survey has found. [...]

5 Campaigners warned that cyber-bullying had become 'an everyday problem for today's children' and demanded better education to tackle the phenomenon. [...]

10 Keeping their children safe online is a major worry for parents, with 49 per cent complaining that the amount of access their child has to the internet leaves them struggling to monitor their behaviour online. [...]

15 Some 40 per cent of parents said they would not know how to respond if their child fell victim to cyber-bullies or how to set up filters on computers, tablets and mobile phones that could protect their children.

20 There were growing calls for online safety to be taught in more schools, with 69 per cent of teachers and 40 per cent of young people calling for it to be included in the national curriculum. [...]

25 Luke Roberts, National Co-ordinator of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, said cyber-bullying is one of the biggest issues facing young people today and called for the Government to ensure it is taught in all schools.

30 He said: 'Our research shows that cyber-bullying is an everyday problem for today's children, but teachers and parents are not always able to provide the advice and support young people need.'

'The solution is better education, not only in the classroom but better training for teachers and support for parents. We need a collaborative approach to tackling cyber-bullying, so children themselves can take responsibility for their own safety online and know where to turn for help when things go wrong.'

40 'If we get this right, and make cyber-bullying a thing of the past, our children will be able to enjoy a digital future that is safe, fun and connected.'

He warned online bullying posed such a big threat to young people because it can spread quickly and easily and leave a permanent imprint in cyber space. [...]

45 'Verbal abuse may be the thing most young people encounter in terms of bullying, but cyber-bullying can be an extension of that abuse.'

50 'Each time a new app or new social network site comes out it creates its own types of risks. My biggest concern is the anonymity attached to some of these sites, because it is far easier to bully people if you are anonymous.'

55 He warned that cyber-bullying cannot be stopped by simply turning mobile phones and computers off, and called on the Government, parents and teachers to teach young people how to stay safe online.

60 He added: 'It is not up to one area to take this on, it is up to the Government, parents and social networking sites. Everyone needs to come together.'