

Cyberbullying

Information from WiredSafety.org and Clubophelia.com



What Is Cyberbullying?

- When children are bullied, embarrassed (rumors), threatened or harassed by another child using interactive technologies
- Creating online polls to determine who is “uncool”
- Pictures can be distorted and used on websites
- Passwords may be stolen and used to send hateful messages
- Personal information may be posted online

Cyberbullying Language...

- Everyone hates you!
- You are ugly and fat!
- You are stupid and dumb!
- I have secret pictures of you I will post online!
- If you try and report me I will make your life miserable!
- I know where you live and how to get you when you're alone!

Quiz

1. How many students have admitted they had experienced some sort of cyberbullying?
 - a. One in three
 - b. One in five
 - c. One in ten
 - d. One in fifteen

Answer...

B

One in 5



Quiz

2. True or False:

Text bullying is the most common form of cyberbullying.

Answer...

True



Quiz

3. Which of these is a way girls engage in cyberbullying?

- a. Harassment
- b. Impersonation
- c. Exclusion
- d. All of the above

Answer...

D

Harassment, Impersonation, and
Exclusion



Quiz

4. True or False:

Although it is common for both, boys will be cyberbullies more than girls will.

Answer...

False



Quiz

5. When polled online how many teachers feel that it is common for children to receive bullying or threatening messages through their cell phones picture messaging?

a. 25%

b. 33%

c. 50%

d. 75%

Answer...

C

50%



Why Do Children Bully?

- Bored and looking for entertainment
- A grudge
- They might think it is “just teasing”
- They may see themselves as righteous avengers, righting the wrongs of the intended victim.
- They may be jealous, hurt or just role-playing. They may not even mean to bully another.
- They might have just had their communications misunderstood.

Why Don't Parents Know?

- Children fear that their parents will over-react, perhaps blaming them or barring them from the Internet.
- They are also afraid of what the bully will do, if confronted.
- It may start offline and move online, or vice versa. It may start online or by phone and stay there, too.
- Rarely are parents informed until it has gotten out of control.
- They might not think their parent will understand.

Signs that Your Child May be Involved in Cyberbullying

- Spending long hours on the computer
- Closing down the screen when you enter the room
- Being secretive about their activities online
- Change in behavior. They might seem depressed, have a lowered self-esteem, have trouble sleeping, have stomach or head aches. She might show a lack of interest at social events that include and her attitude, dress or habits may change. School grades may decline.

What Can the Victim Do?

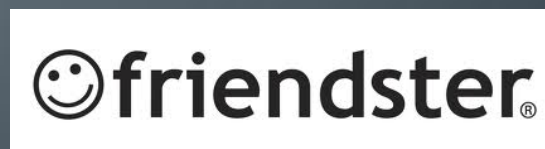
- Blocking communication with the cyberbully
- Deleting messages without reading them
- Reporting the problem to an Internet service provider or website moderator
- Keep personal information private, so that people can't use it against you.
- Think, don't react! Reacting hurts you and the bullies get what they want.
- Save the evidence.
- If you know the bully, send copies of the bullying to his or her parents. Politely, ask them to stop.
- Notify police, if there are threats.

Where Can You Report It?

- It depends on a number of circumstances, the kind of communications, the level of harassment and when and how the communications are made.
- Schools have limited authority to address actions that take place outside of school grounds and off-hours unless it is a school-sponsored activity. When schools try and get involved by disciplining the student for cyberbullying actions that took place off-campus and outside of school hours, they can be sued for exceeding their authority and violating the student's free speech right.
- Law enforcement may be unable to conduct a cyber-investigation. While many cases of bullying online may be illegal, especially when hacking and death threats are involved, much of what occurs is not a crime.
- ISPs are often the best place to start, after the bully's parents have been contacted, or if the victim doesn't know for sure the identity of their bully. Most netbullying violates the ISP's terms of service. And if the case is recorded and reported correctly, the ISP may shut down the netbully's account.

Be Aware!

- Facebook
- YouTube
- Twitter
- Skype
- Google IM
- Oovoo
- Myspace
- Friendster





How can I get away
from them?

STOP!
BLOCK!
TELL!

If time...

- <http://abcnews.go.com/WhatWouldYouDo/video/harmless-joke-cyber-bullying-13119758>



Resources

- Volunteers at WiredSafety.org. The world's largest Internet safety and help group, comprised entirely of unpaid volunteers from around the world.
- <http://www.clubophelia.com/clubophelia/home.php>. This organization has groups that help victims deal with bullying.