



## Cyberbullying

- **Cyberbullying** is when a person or a group of people uses online digital technology to threaten, tease, harass, upset or humiliate someone else. In many cases, a single act can go viral resulting in a feeling of 'repeated' bullying as wider audiences are involved. The victim's privacy can be invaded "24/7".

Children and school staff can be vulnerable to cyberbullying at any time or place via:

**Email, Instant messaging (IM) and chat rooms** -Sending abusive or nasty messages, including sending emails to others who join in the bullying.

**Social networking sites, blogs** -Writing upsetting comments on someone's profile and/or about people on your own status updates or tweets. Uploading hurtful images or videos. Setting up a fake profile dedicated to bullying someone else.

**Online gaming** –Abuse or harassment through multi-player gaming sites.

**Mobile phones** -Sending abusive texts, video or photo messages; encouraging someone to share intimate pictures or videos of themselves and then sending these on to other people (sexting). Note: where the images are of someone under 18, this is a criminal offence.

### What to do:

- **Keep copies** of any abusive texts, emails, comments or messages received; record date and time sent. Encourage the victim not to reply to any messages.
- **Block** the bully/bullies.
- **Follow** your school policies – your e-safety and anti-bullying policies should detail who to inform (such as your school Child Protection Officer, Head) and what action to take. This may include the following:
- **Contact** parents/carers; your Local Authority Designated Officer.
- **Report** to the police if it is a serious case, e.g. involving threat or intimidation or suspected criminal activity, and any illegal material to the Internet Watch Foundation <http://www.iwf.org.uk/>.
- **Report** to the service provider for removal offensive postings – Childnet has a good guide for this <http://www.childnet.com/resources/how-to-make-a-report>.

**Facebook** – use the "Report" links that appear near the content itself (eg "Report/Block this Person" or "Report this Photo"). <http://www.facebook.com/report>

**YouTube** - you need to create a free account, log in, then click the 'Flag' link under the video. To report any abuse issues on the site, go to YouTube's [Abuse and Policy Centre](http://support.google.com/youtube/bin/answer.py?hl=en-GB&answer=178909) <http://support.google.com/youtube/bin/answer.py?hl=en-GB&answer=178909>

**Be proactive:** Discuss Cyberbullying with your pupils, make sure it is part of the PHSE and e-Safety curriculum. <http://www.lgfl.net/esafety/Pages/education.aspx>

**Legal position** – aspects of cyberbullying may be criminal offences in UK law: *'making anonymous or abusive calls'* (Protection from Harassment Act 1997 / Telecoms Act 1984) *'sending via a public network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character'* (Communications Act 2003)

### Information and support

Further advice :

**UK Safer Internet Helpline for professionals**

**0844 381 4772**

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

**Childline Helpline**

**for children 0800 1111**

<http://www.childline.org.uk/exploration/bullying/pages/cyberbullying.aspx>

**Childnet –excellent resources**

<http://www.childnet.com/teachers-and-professionals/for-working-with-young-people/hot-topics/cyberbullying>

**Let's Fight it Together - KS3**

<http://www.childnet.com/resources/lets-fight-it-together>

**Think u Know 'First to a Million' – KS3/4/5**

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/first2amillion/>

**Beat Bullying and CyberMentors**

<http://www.beatbullying.org/>

**Anti Bullying alliance**

<http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

**TeachToday –teacher advice**

<http://www.teachtoday.eu/en/Teacher-advice/Cyberbullying.aspx>

