# Teacher Survey: Bullying in the school environment

## What is bullying?

Bullying can happen at school, at home or online.

It is never okay, and it is not a normal part of growing up. There is a new nationally agreed definition of bullying which all Australian schools now use:

Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records).

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

The 3 main features of bullying are:

* the misuse of power in a relationship
* it is ongoing and repeated
* it involves behaviours that can cause harm.

## What is not bullying?

There are also some behaviours, which, although they might be unpleasant or distressing, are not bullying:

* **mutual conflict** - which involves a disagreement, but not an imbalance of power. Unresolved mutual conflict can develop into **bullying** if one of the parties targets the other repeatedly in retaliation
* **single-episode acts** of nastiness or physical aggression, or aggression directed towards many different people, is not bullying
* **social rejection or dislike** is not bullying unless it involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others.

## Participant roles

Everyone has the potential to bully others or be bullied. Individuals can take on various roles in bullying and play different roles in different contexts. Participant roles can include someone who:

* engages in bullying behaviour (could be an individual or group)
* is the target of the bullying behaviour
* assists the bullying and actively joins in
* is a bystander:
* encourages and gives approval to the bullying by being; they reinforce it through verbal and non-verbal cues such as smiling, laughing or making comments and signal it is acceptable
* sees or knows about someone being bullied but for a range of reasons is passive and does participate in the bullying or support the target
* is an upstander:
* an upstander supports the student who is being bullied by getting help from a teacher, distracting the students engaged in bullying behaviour, supporting the student who is being bullied or directly intervening. These students play an important protective role for peers who are experiencing bullying, have greater empathetic skills and are often perceived by peers to be positive role models.

## Bullying in the school environment

Thank you for completing this survey. Your responses will help us better understand bullying at our school and ways that we can prevent and respond to it.

1. How often is there bullying at school….? (Please tick in the appropriate boxes)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Always | Most of the time | Unsure | Rarely | Never |
| Conducted jointly by a group of students |  |  |  |  |  |
| Led by an individual supported by a group |  |  |  |  |  |
| Conducted by an individual unsupported by any group |  |  |  |  |  |

1. What is a more pressing issue:

Face to face bullying

Online or cyber bullying

Both

Not sure

1. In which year levels of school do you think is bullying most prevalent?

Foundation

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11

Year 12

1. Where does the bullying take place? (tick all that apply)

Playground/schoolyard

In class

Canteen

Toilets

Library

Hallway

Lockers

During sport

Gym change room

Before class

Traveling to and from school

Cyber (e.g. Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, Skype)

Via email

Via mobile (calls or text messages)

Other: Enter answer here

1. How often did these forms of bullying occur at your school?

|  | Very frequently | Most of the time | Unsure | Rarely | Never |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PHYSICAL: pushing, tripping, etc |  |  |  |  |  |
| VERBAL: insulting, ridiculing, mimicking, etc |  |  |  |  |  |
| GESTURAL: threatening gestures, staring |  |  |  |  |  |
| SOCIAL: unfairly excluding someone, gossiping, etc |  |  |  |  |  |
| PSYCHOLOGICAL: spreading rumours, threatening looks |  |  |  |  |  |
| CYBERBULLYING: using a digital device to bully |  |  |  |  |  |
| RACIST BULLYING: bullying someone because of race or culture |  |  |  |  |  |
| HOMOPHOBIC OR TRANSPHOBIC: bullying because of sexuality or gender expression |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Thinking about cyberbullying, which of the following behaviours are most frequent at your school?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Very frequently | Most of the time | Unsure | Rarely | Never |
| Writing inappropriate/hurtful words online (comments, posts, sharing or liking hurtful content, creating rumours) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sending inappropriate/hurtful text messages |  |  |  |  |  |
| Uploading inappropriate images online |  |  |  |  |  |
| Creating fake or imposter accounts |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |

If other please describe:

Enter answer here

1. What digital technologies have been used to target people at your school? (Please tick in the appropriate boxes.)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Very frequently | Most of the time | Unsure | Rarely | Never |
| Mobile phone |  |  |  |  |  |
| Email |  |  |  |  |  |
| Social networking sites (Instagram, Tik Tok, Twitter) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Online phone services (Skype) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |

If other please describe:

Enter answer here

1. Although any student can be bullied, some students seem more vulnerable than others. How likely are each of the following students, to be subject to bullying at your school? (Please tick in the appropriate boxes.)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Very likely | Somewhat likely | Unsure | Not likely | Never |
| Students of culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students who are physically weaker than their peers |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students who are highly successful in their schoolwork |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students who do poorly in their schoolwork |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students with a learning difficulty |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students with a speech difficulty |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students with a physical disability |  |  |  |  |  |
| Autistic students |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students who lack social skills |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students who excel in sport |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students who do not do well at sport |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students who identify as or are perceived to be LGBTIQ+ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students who are bullied based on their weight or appearance |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students perceived to be from socially disadvantaged families |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students who behave aggressively |  |  |  |  |  |
| Students in the younger year levels |  |  |  |  |  |
| Girls (that is compared with boys) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boys (that is compared with girls) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |

If other please describe:

Enter answer here

1. How do you identify bullying (Please tick in the appropriate boxes)

Directly observed by yourself

Reported to the school by targeted student/s

Reported to the school by another student or students

Reported to the school by a parent or carer

Informed anonymously (e.g. through a bully box)

Through classroom discussions

Other: Enter answer here