NSW GOVERNMENT | Education

Anti-bullying
**Parents and carers
Online bullying fact sheet**

What is online bullying?

Online bullying – or cyber-bullying – is engaging in bullying behaviour using technology such as the internet or mobile devices. Online bullying is different from other forms of bullying several ways:

- It is more likely to happen outside school.
- Material can be shared quickly and long after the first incident.
- It can happen anytime, day or night.
- It is more difficult to defend yourself or get away.

What does online bullying look like?

Online bullying may include sending abusive messages, posting hurtful or threatening material on social media, imitating or excluding others online and making inappropriate comments on posts or pictures.

How do I know if my child is being bullied online?

The following behaviours may indicate your child is upset by something happening online:

- being hesitant about going online
- seeming nervous when an instant message, text message or email appears
- being visibly distressed after using a computer or mobile device
- suddenly avoiding the internet
- closing a laptop or hiding a mobile device when others enter the room.

How can I keep my child safe online?

Be aware of the age restrictions for the sites and applications your child wants to use, and remind them not to share their passwords or personal information with others.

Talk with them about how they use the internet and mobile devices and understand the privacy settings. Make sure they know they can tell you or another trusted adult if they are being bullied online.

What can I do if my child is bullied online?

There are lots of things you can help your child to do if they are being bullied online:

- remind your child not to respond or retaliate
- keep a record of any incidents of online bullying for example take screenshots
- block or delete the user who is bullying
- remind your child to change their privacy settings
- contact the service provider – they can help to block messages and calls
- report the bullying.

How to report online bullying?

Keep records or screenshots of calls or messages that are offensive or hurtful.

If the bullying is related to school, contact the principal to report what has happened and work together to resolve the issue.

Call the police if your child is physically threatened, and report serious online bullying behaviour to the Office of the eSafety Commissioner.

Useful websites:

https://antibullying.nsw.gov.au
www.esafety.gov.au
www.bullyingnoway.com.au
www.kidshelpline.com.au