

Internet Bullying – How Bullies Operate in Cyberspace

The internet has lead us into a complex new world of communications. We use e-mail, instant messaging (IM), text messaging, blogs, chat rooms and social networking sites (Facebook, Myspace etc.) to stay in touch with friends and make new friends.

However, this also means that bullying is no longer restricted to the playground, the classroom or the street. Bullying can now enter our homes without us ever inviting it in.

- 60% of Canadian students use chatrooms or instant messaging
- 99% of Canadians have used the internet
- 27% of Canadian students have been bullied online
- 60% of students in Canada have pretended to be someone else online
- Of this 60%, 17% admit to doing so to be mean to someone online

Here are some ways online bullies operate:

By sending e-mails or instant messages containing insults or threats directly to a person.

Spreading hateful comments about someone through e-mail, instant messaging or postings on websites and blogs.

Stealing passwords and/or sending out threatening or misleading e-mails or instant messages using an assumed identity like Julia (aka "prettyinpink" and 'destroy damian") does in "Wired"

Building websites that target specific people.

Sending/posting demeaning photos/videos on websites or through e-mail and cell phone

What to do if you are being bullied online :

Tell an adult you trust, don't keep this a secret.

Leave the site or stop participating.

Block the sender.

Never reply to harassing messages!

Don't agree to meet the bully in person.

Save any harassing messages, talk to your parents/guardians and they can alert your internet service provider.

If you believe that the bully is school based, please tell your teacher and your principal. They need to know and will help you find a solution.

If you are being threatened – save and/or print copies of the message. You have the right to tell the police and keeping copies will help them investigate.

If you see someone harassing another person online, talk to them. Most people respond better to their peers and will listen to them more than they would an adult.

Signs that Someone is Being Cyberbullied

If someone is :

- spending especially long hours on the computer
- being secretive and/or defensive about their activities on the computer
- quickly switching the computer off/opening a new window when someone goes by
- often looking sad or angry after being on the computer
- seems nervous when they receive a text or IM
- strangely stops using computers, cellphones etc...



WIRED - WEB RESOURCES

Bullying Canada, Youth Anti-Bullying Website: <http://www.bullyingcanada.ca>

Cyberbullying.ca: <http://www.cyberbullying.ca/>

Cybercops- classroom resources: <http://www.ophea.net/cybercops.cfm>

Kids Help Phone- Cyber Bullying: <http://www.kidshelpphone.ca/en/informed/cyberbullying/cyberbullying13.asp?gclid=ClbM0PKAn5gCFRFWagod7hudnQ>

Media Awareness- there are lots of educational games and classroom activities about web awareness and safety: <http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/games/index.cfm>

Netsmartzkids- internet safety games, songs, videos and information. Excellent for Kindergarten's, Grade's 1 & 2: <http://www.netsmartzkids.org/indexFL.htm>

Cybersafe with Steve Dotto - great informational video clips about neat cyber tools and how to use them safely!: <http://www.learnnowbc.ca/lbncresources/cybersafe/default.aspx>

Stop CyberBullying- a great website with loads of information!: <http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/kids/index.html>

Web Aware- be safe online: <http://www.bewebaware.ca/english/CyberBullying.aspx>

**For the complete Wired Study Guide, please visit,
www.greenthumb.bc.ca**

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