

November saw anti-bullying week run alongside Children In Need. The theme was “Make a Noise about Bullying” and our learners have had assemblies regarding the subject with a focus on themes such as banter, empathy and understanding the Palestinian crisis. You can watch the video shared with learners here <https://youtu.be/0vWCg2EIEYY>.

More and more we are seeing learners who come to us regarding comments that have been made online, or comments that we have seen learners make online when using various social media platforms. We do have filtering and monitoring software on all our college laptops which will pick certain words up that are then flagged to either the Pastoral and/or Safeguarding Teams and we deal directly with the learners on these and inform parents if there is a concern.

Recent research carried out by Ofcom (2022) shows that four in 10 children aged 8-17 (39%) have experienced bullying, either on or offline. Among these children, the bullying was more likely to happen on a device (84%) than face-to-face (61%).

The most common way for children to be bullied via technology was through text or messaging apps (56%), followed by social media (43%) or online games (30%).

Two thirds of parents worry in general about their child being targeted by online bullies. Among parents of children who game online, over half were concerned about being bullied during gameplay (52%). Most children (93%) say that they would tell someone if they saw something upsetting or nasty online. Girls are significantly more likely than boys to *always* tell someone about something worrying that they had seen (62% vs 56%).

To support, the government has recently passed the Online Safety Act which came into effect in October 2023. This makes Ofcom the regulator for online safety with more of a role in what social media platforms can / can't do and we have attached some information for schools for you to have a look at.

So, what can parents do to support their young people?

The following websites offer great advice

[CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

[Online Safety and Cyberbullying Awareness for Parents and Carers \(kidscape.org.uk\)](https://www.kidscape.org.uk)

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-safety-guide/>

[My Family's Digital Toolkit - tailored online safety advice | Internet Matters](#)

As always, if you have a concern, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.



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