**Cyber-Bullying**

Although mobile phones and computers have made it easier for us to stay in touch with our friends, they have also made it easier for bullies to reach their victims. This type of online abuse is known as cyber-bullying, and this article looks at some of the issues surrounding the problem.

### HALF of all young people say that cyber-bullying is part of everyday life

More than half of children and young people in England accept cyber-bullying as a part of everyday life, a new survey has found. [...] Campaigners warned that cyber-bullying has become ‘an everyday problem for today’s children’ and demanded better education to tackle the phenomenon. [...] Keeping their children safe online is a major worry for parents, with 49 per cent complaining that the amount of access their child has to the internet leaves them struggling to monitor their behaviour online. [...] Some 40 per cent of parents said they would not know how to respond if their child fell victim to cyber-bullies or how to set up filters on computers, tablets and mobile phones that could protect their children.

There were growing calls for online safety to be taught in more schools, with 69 per cent of teachers and 40 per cent of young people calling for it to be included in the national curriculum. [...] Luke Roberts, National Co-ordinator of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, said cyber-bullying is one of the biggest issues facing young people today and called for the Government to ensure it is taught in all schools.

He said: ‘Our research shows that cyber-bullying is an everyday problem for today’s children, but teachers and parents are not always able to provide the advice and support young people need.'

An abridged article from www.dailymail.co.uk

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**1.** Why do you think the word “half” is written in capitals in the article’s headline?

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**2.** Read lines 22-26. How does Luke Roberts hope to tackle cyber-bullying?

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**3.** What do you think the phrase “leave a permanent imprint in cyber space” (lines 43-44) means?

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**4.** Luke Roberts thinks it’s “easier to bully people if you are anonymous” (lines 51-52). Do you agree? Explain your answer.

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**5.** Why do you think cyber-bullying can’t be stopped just by switching off phones and computers?

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**6.** Do you think cyber-bullying will ever be “a thing of the past” (lines 38-39)? Explain your answer.

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Total out of 10