



Beyond the Schoolyard: Cyber-Bullies[©]

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TNCRRG Annual Shareholders' Winter Meeting
Fort Lauderdale, FL
February 1, 2011



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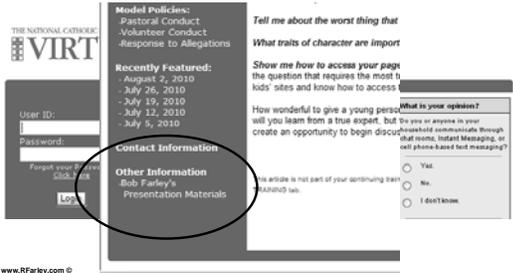
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**Commanding Officer
 (Retired)
 Child Exploitation Unit
 Chicago, IL USA**

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With ever changing electronic technology the
 home is no longer the refuge from bullies at
 school or on the school playground



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**Bully – a young hoodlum who
 revels in making peoples lives a
 misery during school years.**

online urban dictionary



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Bullies can be girls or boys



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Some bullies attack their victims physically such as shoving, slapping or punching while other bullies use verbal insults or psychological control to torment their victims.

Bullying – is repeated acts over time that involves a real or perceived imbalance of power with the more powerful child or group attacking those who are less powerful.

U.S. Department of Justice



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Bullying may also be a “tradition” in some school settings where older students or certain groups of students feel superior to the younger students



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Where bullying was once considered a childhood rite of passage, bullies can make a school a place of fear. Children who are bullied are often afraid to eat in the cafeteria or even to go to school.



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How many people were ever bullied during their school years?



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Studies have shown that while envy or resentment may be motives for bullying there is little evidence to suggest that bullies suffer from any deficit in self esteem – As this would make it somewhat difficult to bully



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However, bullying can also be used as a tool to conceal shame, anxiety or to boost self esteem. By demeaning others, the abuser himself or herself often feels empowered.



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Victims of bullying often suffer anxiety, loneliness, depression and a lack of self esteem

Victims of bullying are not always unpopular loners



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Parents and educators are now dealing with tweens and teens who are the “always connected” generation.



As a result we are now dealing with a non-traditional approach to bullying.

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Cyber-bullying – is when the Internet, cell phones or other electronic devices are used to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person.

National Crime Prevention Council



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Computer Webcam and “Real Time” Problems for Children

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google.com

Google

Chat face to face with family and friends



Install voice and video chat

It's free and installs in seconds

System requirements

- Windows XP or later
- Intel Mac OS X 10.4 or later
- Linux

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skype.com



www.RFarley.com ©

iChat for Macs



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ooVoo.com



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Unlike traditional bullying, electronic or cyber-bullies can remain virtually anonymous using temporary email accounts, pseudonyms in chat rooms, anonymous proxy servers, instant messaging programs, cell-phone text messaging, and other Internet or electronic means to mask their identity. This perhaps frees the cyber-bully from the normative or the social constraints of their behavior.



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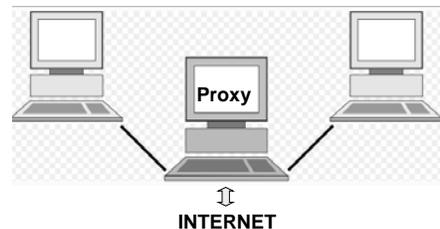
www.virtus.org



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Proxy Server

- Keeps computers behind it anonymous
- Scans inbound content for malware
- Logs internet usage



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Anonymous Proxy Server

- Access blocked Internet sites
- Hides your IP address
- Surf anonymously



INTERNET

Anonymous
Proxy
Server



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Cyber-bullies might be braver when utilizing electronic technology to carry out their hostile and intimidating behavior because it takes less nerve to express hurtful comments when utilizing a cell phone keypad or a computer keyboard.



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Another problem is the inseparability of the victim's "always connected" cell phone, making the child a continuous target for victimization. As the result, cyber-bullying can penetrate the walls of a home, usually a place where victims could seek refuge from the traditional forms of bullying.



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Types of Cyber-bullying

Internet

- Cruel instant computer messaging
- Harassing, threatening or insulting emails
- Creating a social networking site in order to mock certain students
- Posting humiliating, "photo-shopped" or digitally modified photos of students

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Types of Cyber-bullying

Internet

- Pretending to be someone else by using someone's online screen name
- Verbally abusing someone on an online gaming site or an avatar based website

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Direct vs. Indirect Methods of Cyber-bullying

Direct

- Sending cyber-bullying messages directly to the victim

Indirect

- Using others to cyber-bully the victim
- With or without the accomplice's consent

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Types of Cyber-bullying

Internet

- **Flaming** – which is posting offensive messages or so called “flames” within online discussion forums, the IRC or the various newsgroups

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Types of Cyber-bullying

Cell phone

- **Harassing telephone calls**
- **Threatening or insulting text messages**
- **Surreptitiously taking cell phone photos or videos and then posting them on the Internet or a social networking site**

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Cell phone video clips of traditional bullying behavior can then be posted on social networking sites or YouTube



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Types of Cyber-bullying

Cell phone

- **Forwarding “private” photos or videos to other students**
- **Sexting** – is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones

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Child Pornography

Child Abuse Images

Defined – Visual depiction of a minor (18) engaged in sexually explicit conduct or the lewd exhibition of the genitals

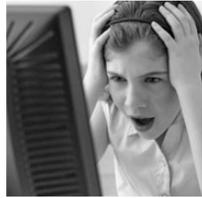
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In a 2010 Johnson Institute of Ethics bullying study of 43,321 teens, 47% of the respondents reported they had been bullied at least once while 50% reported having bullied, teased or taunted someone at least once.

USA Today,
10/26/10

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What is the School's Role in Protecting Students from Cyber-Bullies?



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What is the Schools Role?

- Educate the students regarding the many implications of electronic harassment
- Be proactive – Require that student cell phones be left in school lockers

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What is the Schools Role? (cont.)

- Establish an Acceptable Use of Technology Policy (AUTP) regarding student internet access that shall include, but not be limited to: parental consent for student internet use, teacher supervision of the use and auditing procedures to determine whether the technology is being employed for threatening, abusive or obscene use

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What is the Schools Role? (cont.)

The AUTP shall identify:

- Digital Etiquette – electronic standards of conduct
- Digital Access – Norms of electronic participation

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What is the Schools Role? (cont.)

- Don't transmit pornographic, obscene or sexually explicit material
- Don't transmit threatening, abusive or sexually explicit language
- Don't access, copy or transmit another's messages without permission

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What is the Schools Role? (cont.)

The AUTP shall also identify:

- Guidelines for social networking, texting, IM and phone interactions between staff and students

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What is the Schools Role? (cont.)

- Add a provision to the school's "Student Policy Manual" reserving the right to discipline a student for any type of technology related incident, for example involving social networking sites or cyber-bullying on or off school property. Then discuss the policy provision with the school attorney

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What is the Schools Role? (cont.)

- Enlist the assistance of the School Resource Officer (SRO) or the Police Department's Juvenile Officer
- The best school cyber-bully intervention and prevention model is threefold:

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School Bullying Intervention Model

- **School wide-level Interventions** – A survey of bullying problems at the school, increased supervision, school wide assemblies, and teacher in-service training to raise the awareness of children and school staff regarding bullying.
- **Classroom-level Interventions** – The establishment of classroom rules against bullying, regular class meetings to discuss bullying at school, and meetings with all parents.
- **Individual-level Interventions** – Discussions with students identified as cyber-bullies and the victims of cyber-bullies.

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The Initial Conversation with the Cyber-bully and the Parents



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The Initial Conversation

- The student's discipline file should include: computer screen captures, message logs, photos, or any evidence that will demonstrate the seriousness of the student's behavior and its impact on the victim and the school
- Explain what cyber-bullying is and why it is not acceptable – Student Policy Manual
- You may first have to explain electronic technology and the Internet to the parents!!

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The Initial Conversation (cont.)

- Talk with the student about the impact of bullying – Try to get them to understand what it is like being bullied
- Make it clear what the school rules are on cyber-bullying and the consequences
- Have the student acknowledge that what was done was a violation of school rules
- Discuss what the student thinks might help them to stop bullying in the future

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The Initial Conversation (cont.)

- Inform the parents that the police may have to be notified of the incident by the school
- Inform the parents that the police may be notified by the victim's family
- Increase the Internet or electronic communication supervision of the student
- NO school Internet access
- NO cell phone on school property

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What should parents do if your child has been the victim of a cyber-bully?



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What Should a Parent Do ?

- Refrain from the knee jerk reaction of immediately banning a victim's access to instant messaging, email, social networking sites a cell phone or the Internet – You punish the victim not the offender
- Talk with your children and caution them about opening emails, text messages, etc. from people that they don't know

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What Should a Parent Do ? (cont.)

- If your child receives a text message, IM or an email that is hurtful, tell them to NEVER respond to it – Save it to a folder and tell a trusted adult or a parent
- Internet Service providers can often block cyber-bullies
- If a child has been threatened the police should be notified immediately – “Child Predator Protection 101”

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What Should a Parent Do ? (cont.)

Notifying the Police

- What kind of threat? (direct or indirect)
- What was said exactly?
- What type of technology was used?
- How often has the threat occurred?
- Do you know who is responsible?

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MAKING A COMPLAINT – NCMEC
www.missingkids.com
1-800-843-5678



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