



THE BULLYING INTERVENTION GROUP

The BIG Award secondary pupils survey briefing paper

The influence of age

13,645 pupils from schools in England

The Bullying Intervention Group [BIG] runs a national award scheme to reward excellence.

We offer all member schools an anonymous online pupil survey. Data from many schools is collated into briefing reports at regular intervals. We share information with our members to improve bullying intervention.

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It happened to me 5

I know other people who experienced this



OVERALL APPROVAL RATING and AGE

Young people's approval of the school's performance in dealing with bullying diminishes with age, reaching its lowest level at age 16, when only 21% think that what their school is doing, works 'very well' compared to 45% of 11-12 year olds. We see below that there is more cyberbullying at age 15-16 and cases are more complex with fewer being successfully resolved by the school if reported. Unlike offline bullying, which diminishes in prevalence with age (although not in severity) we know that in contrast, cyberbullying increases with age. Older students are also less likely to report bullying or to seek help, preferring to deal with it themselves. This can lead to a build-up of problems for a young person. By the time they do report it, there could be several high risk features of the scenario.

WHAT SCHOOLS ARE DOING

Reporting bullying

71% of 11-12 year olds and 67% of 15-16 year olds said their schools 'make sure you all know how to report bullying'.

Online safety

Around three quarters of learners of all ages say that their schools 'teach you to stay safe online and on mobiles.'

Equality and difference

60% of 11-12 year olds and 51% of 15-16 year olds say their school 'teaches pupils to respect people who are different.'

Peer support

44% of 11-12 year olds and 40% of 15-16 year olds say their schools 'train young people to support each other.'

Get the bullying to stop if it happens

69% of 11-12 year olds and 47% of 15-16 year olds say that their schools 'get the bullying to stop if it happens.'

Reporting bullying

Surprisingly, not all learners say their school made sure everyone knows how to report bullying. 71% of 11-12 year olds **do** know how to report it, but from the age of 14, this drops to two thirds of learners aged 15-16.



Assemblies or lessons

Over 80% of all age groups say their school ‘does assemblies or lessons about bullying’

Publicise helplines and services to help students

The publicising of helplines is low at all ages – less than a third of schools do this.

POLICY

Around two thirds of learners say ‘Yes, my school has an Anti-Bullying Policy’, while just under 1/3 of learners aged 11-16 say they are ‘not sure’. 2% say ‘no’.

At age 11-12 years, 34% believe ‘this policy is working’, while at age 15-15 only 23% agree.

Fewer than half the learners of all ages said their school ‘consults everyone about the Anti-Bullying Policy.’

Members of BIG Award submit both a portfolio of evidence of practice and their policies for assessment when applying for the BIG Award. We plan to analyse all the feedback given to members when policies are checked. This will reveal the most common omissions and aspects that are questioned in our feedback. This will form a future briefing for members.

BULLYING EXPERIENCED

Have you been bullied? - Extent

age	Yes a lot	Yes sometimes	No
11-12	11%	35%	21%
12-13	11%	36%	23%
13-14	11%	33%	22%
14-15	9%	33%	20%
15-16	9%	30%	14%



Frequency

If you have been bullied, was it...

age	In the last week	In the last 4 weeks	In the last year	A long time ago	Don't remember
11-13	16%	14%	25%	28.5%	16.5%
13-14	15%	11%	26%	33%	15%
14-15	13%	10%	25%	37%	15%
15-16	12%	10%	19%	43%	15%

If you were bullied, where did it happen?

If you were bullied, where did it happen? (Respondents are only those who were bullied)

Most bullied students experienced bullying in school. Over 85% of learners of all ages said it happened in school - with as many as 92% of bullied 15-16 year olds saying school was the location.

Bullying that happened out of school was reported by one third of 11-12 year olds and by 28% of 15-16 year olds.

Bullying was experienced in Cyberspace (online) by 11% of 11-12 year olds and by 21% of 15-16 year olds. (Note only those who said they were bullied answered this question. See below for all respondents.)

Bullying on mobiles increased with age from 11% at age 11-12 rising to 16% of 15-16 year olds.

** Note that in Q15 on p9. far more respondents said 'It happened to me' when asked about Cyberbullying and this is because the entire sample answered this question, not only those who had said they were bullied earlier. This shows how carefully questionnaires need to be worded and attention needs to be paid to the base answering the question. We like to ask this twice to get a closer look at young people's experiences.*

15% of students experienced bullying on the journey to or from school.

Prejudice-driven bullying

Do you think the bullying was linked to any of these?

age	Race, religion or culture	Homophobia	Sexism	Disability	Because of longstanding illness	How I look
11-12	22%	16%	15%	19%	8%	77%
12-13	20%	16%	8%	13%	4%	81%
13-14	18%	15%	8%	12%	5%	83%
14-15	22%	15%	8%	11%	6%	82%
15-16	22%	14%	10%	12%	6%	82%

Reporting bullying if it occurs

Large numbers of bullied children and young people tell nobody what is happening to them. This doubles between the ages of 11-12 (11%) and the age 15-16 (21%). Very few turn to a helpline, 2% of younger learners and 3% of 15-16 year olds, a third of whom say 'I dealt with it myself.'

The age group most likely to tell a teacher is 11-12, (46%) whereas at age 15-16 only 37% did so. Other people to whom they reported bullying were friends (1/3) siblings (15%) a trusted person (18%) or an online service (less than 2%).

We hope to improve reporting rates through staff training and innovative ways of reporting.

Did the bullying stop after you reported it?

63% of bullying victims of all ages who told someone about the bullying said it stopped, but for 28% of 15-16 year olds it stayed the same and for 10% of 11-12 year olds it actually got worse.

*We have worked on this figure and have managed to reduce it after we identified the issue, too many children were reporting bullying and getting a poor outcome.



What have you experienced? What do you see around you?

Rumour spreading: More than 2/3 of learners know other people who experienced rumour spreading

Name calling: 2/3 know other people who experienced name calling

Physical: Around ¾ of learners know other people who have experienced physical bullying (84% at age 15-16).

Cyber – using mobiles or online services (*Note this question was answered by every respondent, including those who had not said earlier that they were bullied personally.*)

	It happened to me	I know other people who experienced this
Q15: 11-12	23.97% 192	76.03% 609
– Q15: 12-13	23.57% 252	76.43% 817
– Q15: 13-14	19.51% 225	80.49% 928
– Q15: 14-15	19.84% 201	80.16% 812
– Q15: 15-16	18.23% 146	81.77% 655

Leaving someone out occurred most between ages 11 and 13, when almost one third of students experienced this but this behaviour diminished gradually with age, to one quarter of 15-16 year olds.

Racist comments or names – this form of bullying is currently running at high levels. 22% of 11-12 year olds said this had happened to them. It does diminish with age but of all prejudice driven forms of bullying it is proving most resistant to intervention. We obtain great success in reducing other forms of prejudice but in the current climate racism has become a topic of conversation surrounding young people at home and in the community, the news and the public discourse. The damaging effects of this are noted.

Bullying due to a disability or health problem -17% of younger students experience this at age 11-12 and it appears to reduce in the mid-teens but rise again at age 15-16.

Insults calling someone gay – while age 11-12 sees a peak in homophobic bullying, with one in five students saying it happened to me, this is amenable to intervention. 15% of those aged 15-16 said it happened to them. (In schools rated as effective by students it has been reduced markedly.)

Sexist bullying -20% of the 11-12 year olds experienced this personally, but by age 12-13 it had reduced to 12%.



If your school is a member of the Bullying Intervention Group, have you undertaken your survey yet? Why not contact us to set it up for you? Get usable data to improve your practice.

All reports by the Bullying Intervention Group are posted online.

www.bullyinginterventiongroup.co.uk