Bullying in schools facts and figures

Approximately one in four Year 4 to Year 9 Australian students (27%) reported being bullied every few weeks or more often.

Lack of a shared definition of bullying can hamper finding lasting solutions.

Students may not report bullying to the school because they fear not being believed or making things worse.

Approximately one in five young school students reported experiencing online bullying in any one year.

In 85% of bullying interactions, peers are present as onlookers, and play a central role in the bullying process.

Hurtful teasing was the most common bullying behaviour reported, followed by having hurtful lies told about them.

32% of Year 5s and 29% of Year 8s reported frequent school bullying.

Students often tell parents about bullying rather than anyone else.

Enhancing social status with peers is the most commonly reported motivator for bullying.

83% of students who bully others online also bully others in person.

84% of students who were bullied online were also bullied in person.

Students 10 to 15 years of age are the most likely to be involved in online bullying.

72% of schools reported managing at least one incident of online bullying in the previous year.

The national definition of bullying for Australian schools is the starting point for bullying prevention

Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records).

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

Read more about effective ways to prevent bullying at Bullying. No Way! bullyingnoway.gov.au

Sources can be found at: https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/WhatIsBullying/FactsAndFigures