

# 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](https://bullyingnoway.gov.au)

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

**BULLYING. NO WAY!**