Cyberbullying

o **Cyberbullying** is when a person or a group of people uses online digital technology to threaten, tease, harass, upset or humiliate someone else. In many cases, a single act can go viral resulting in a feeling of 'repeated' bullying as wider audiences are involved. The victim's privacy can be invaded "24/7".

Children and school staff can be vulnerable to cyberbullying at any time or place via:
Email, Instant messaging (IM) and chat rooms -Sending abusive or nasty messages, including sending emails to others who join in the bullying.
Social networking sites, blogs -Writing upsetting comments on someone's profile and/or about people on your own status updates or tweets. Uploading hurtful images or videos. Setting up a fake profile dedicated to bullying someone else.
Online gaming –Abuse or harassment through multi-player gaming sites.
Mobile phones -Sending abusive texts, video or photo messages; encouraging someone to share intimate pictures or videos of themselves and then sending these on to other people (sexting). Note: where the images are of someone under 18, this is a criminal offence.

What to do:

o **Keep copies** of any abusive texts, emails, comments or messages received; record date and time sent. Encourage the victim not to reply to any messages.
o **Block** the bully/bullies.
o **Follow** your school policies – your e-safety and anti-bullying policies should detail who to inform (such as your school Child Protection Officer, Head) and what action to take. This may include the following:
o **Contact** parents/carers; your Local Authority Designated Officer.
o **Report** to the police if it is a serious case, e.g. involving threat or intimidation or suspected criminal activity, and any illegal material to the Internet Watch Foundation http://www.iwf.org.uk/ .
o **Report** to the service provider for removal offensive postings – Childnet has a good guide for this http://www.childnet.com/resources/how-to-make-a-report **.**

Facebook – use the "Report" links that appear near the content itself (eg "Report/Block this Person" or "Report this Photo"). http://www.facebook.com/report
YouTube - you need to create a free account, log in, then click the 'Flag' link under the video. To report any abuse issues on the site, go to YouTube's Abuse and Policy Centre
http://support.google.com/youtube/bin/answer.py?hl=en-GB&answer=178909

Be proactive: Discuss Cyberbullying with your pupils, make sure it is part of the PHSE and e-Safety curriculum. http://www.lgfl.net/esafety/Pages/education.aspx

Legal position – aspects of cyberbullying may be criminal offences in UK law:
'*making anonymous or abusive calls'* (Protection from Harassment Act 1997 / Telecoms Act 1984)
'*sending via a public network a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character'* (Communications Act 2003)

Information and support
Further advice :
UK Safer Internet Helpline
for professionals
0844 381 4772
http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

Childline Helpline
for children 0800 1111
http://www.childline.org.uk/explore/bullying/pages/cyberbullying.aspx

Childnet –excellent resources
http://www.childnet.com/teachers-and-professionals/for-working-with-young-people/hot-topics/cyberbullying

Let's Fight it Together - KS3
http://www.childnet.com/resources/lets-fight-it-together

Think u Know 'First to a Million' – KS3/4/5
http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/first2amillion/

Beat Bullying and CyberMentors
http://www.beatbullying.org/

Anti Bullying alliance
http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/

TeachToday –teacher advice
http://www.teachtoday.eu/en/Teacher-advice/Cyberbullying.aspx

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