

Inquiry question:

Cyberbullying: What is it and what are the impacts?

Cyberbullying findings:

Cyberbullying is defined as the act of harassing someone online by sending or posting mean messages, usually anonymously (Dictionary, 2016). Some examples of cyberbullying include, but isn't limited to sending mean, threatening or hurtful text messages or e-mails, creating false personas using the victims' information, spreading rumors or gossip through text messages and circulating harmful texts to keep the victim out of social circles (prevnet.ca, 2015). Through my research, I found that bullying can impact students' multiple ways including emotionally, physically and mentally. These ways include but aren't limited to decrease in school attendance due to the fact that students who are cyberbullied are less likely to feel safe attending school, negative impacts on a child's social, emotional and educational development such as lower self-esteem, health issues (anxiety, depression, etc) and lower level of achievements.

Over the course of my research, I was able to find some statistics related to bullying and cyberbullying that I found alarming. These statistics included:

- Bullying occurs once every 7 minutes on the playground and once every 25 minutes in the classroom
- More than 1 in 3 young people have experienced cyberthreats online
- Kids Help Phone's 2007 survey of 2,474 students aged 13 to 15, in which 70 percent of those surveyed said they were cyberbullied

Informed teaching practices:

Due to these alarming statistics, I decided to find out resources and ways I as a teacher could prevent bullying and cyberbullying within my classroom without eliminating technology completely. Some ways that I found were teaching students that the rules offline also apply online, teach students how to be safe on the internet and raise awareness rather than avoiding technology use in the classroom, create positive spaces for students to work on projects and acknowledge student achievements (Clifford, 2012).

Resources:

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/cyberbullying>

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it/>

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/cyberbullying.html#>

<http://www.prevnet.ca/bullying/cyber-bullying>

<http://www.bullyingstatistics.org/content/cyber-bullying-statistics.html>

<http://www.stopabully.ca/bullying-statistics.html>

<https://nobullying.com/cyber-bullying-statistics-in-canada/>

<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/45838.html>

http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/what-schools-can-do-to-stop-bullying.shtml

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/cyberbullying-what-teachers-and-schools-can-do>

<http://www.opencolleges.edu.au/informed/features/15-strategies-educators-can-use-to-stop-cyberbullying/>