

# ***Bullying***

*Bullying is never fun, it's a cruel and terrible thing to do to someone. If you are being bullied, it is not your fault. No one deserves to be bullied, ever.*

***Raini Rodriguez***

*Bullying is killing our kids. Being different is killing our kids and the kids who are bullying are dying inside. We have to save our kids whether they are bullied or they are bullying. They are all in pain.*

***Cat Cora***

## Statistics

Most children have either been bullied, bully others or witnessed bullying at school.

More than one in five children are bullied regularly at school.

In American schools:

- 160,000 + children miss school every day, due to fear of attack or intimidation by other students.

- 20% of students carry weapons to school to feel safer.

- 22% of students are victimised at the beginning of the year and 8% are victimised during the remainder of the year.

- 50% of students knew of a student who had switched schools to feel safer.

- School results are 3% to 6% lower when students are bullied (APA Monitor. Oct 2011)

40% of suicide victims had been bullied at school. (Victorian Coroner 2007)

National School Safety Centre, USA, estimates that 525,000 "attacks, shakedowns and robberies" occur in an average month in public secondary schools.

Three thirds of school shootings were conducted by victims of bullying

***Not all forms of abuse leave bruises.***

What springs to mind when you hear the word 'cyber-bullying'?

***Cyberbullying*** or ***cyberharassment*** is a form of bullying or harassment using electronic means. Cyberbullying and Cyberharassment are also known as online bullying. It has become increasingly common, especially among teenagers.

# Bullying (match the words)

dreadful

bent; not standing up straight

at some point

suggestions, ideas, advice

firm

increase, strengthen, make better

become resigned to

discourage, put off

stick with straight

start accepting

tips

at some time, eventually

deter

really bad, horrible, disgusting

boost

stay with

hunched

will probably be

is likely to

strong

# What is bullying? (Answer 3 of these questions in your exercise books)

## Now discuss the following

- 1 Have you ever been bullied? If so, what happened? How did you feel?
- 2 Have you ever been a bully yourself? If so, what happened? How did you feel?
- 3 Have you ever seen bullying? Did you interfere or walk away?
- 4 Why do people bully others? What do they gain from it?
- 5 What effect does bullying have? Does it make bullied people stronger and ready for the real world?
- 6 Would a bully be good at any particular job?
- 7 What can we do to stop bullying?