





### **Impact of Cyberbullying?**

Data collected by **antibullyingpro.com** estimate:

- Over 16,000 young people miss school due to online bullying each year
- 83% of victims say bullying has effected confidence and self-esteem
- 30% of victims have started self-harming due to bullying online
- 10% of victims have attempted to commit suicide
  
- In 2017 Nobullying.com a stop bullying charity found that 24% of children who had been bullied online had suicidal thoughts.
- **Bullying.co.uk state over 200 school children commit suicide each year.**

Cyberbullying can affect all people - Two recent and high profile case of Cyberbullying is that of Carolyn Flack. Also, that of, Jesy Nelson from the band Little Mix, both of whom were trolled on different social media platforms, suffered **Baiting, Virtual mobbing and Cyber-stalking**. This led to Carolyn Flack committing suicide.

### **What does the law say about cyberbullying?**

Cyberbullying is not defined under UK law. However, as confirmed by the social media and criminal offences communications committee, committing an act of online bullying can be classed and charged as the criminal offence of cyberbullying under existing laws. For example:

- Cyber-stalking or harassment - **Protection from Harassment Act 1997**
- Revenge pornography - **Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015**
- Credible threats of violence - **Malicious Communications Act 1988**
- Virtual mobbing - **Communications Act 2003**
- Posted statement or video of a false nature that damages a person's reputation - **Defamation Act 2013**
- Racial or religious aggravation – **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

### **What are the government doing?**

- In 2019 the Government produced the “online Harms White Paper” which appointed the Independent regulator Ofcom to enforce new stringent standards.
- Social media firms must abide by the mandatory duty of care rules to protect their users and will face heavy fines if they do not.
- The UK is the first country in the world to bring in protections like this.
- There is also an ongoing debate about introducing specific legislation to tackle cyberbullying and cybercrime.

**What to do if you or someone you know are/is being bullied?**

- Keep records – keep messages and photos that have been sent to you.
- Tell an adult – parent / family member or teacher
- Tell the police
- Report it to bullying watch dogs and if on social media platforms to the platform directly



**For any advice or if you want to talk to someone regarding any of the issues raised call the Bullying UK Helpline on**

**0808 800 2222**

**Or click on the link -**

**<https://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/>**



