

Aims of this unit

This unit aims to teach children how to communicate online in a respectful and responsible manner. It introduces them to the concept of cyberbullying and what to do if someone is unkind to them online.

For your informationCyberbullying and how to treat people online

It is not uncommon for children to be unkind to each other and unfortunately bullying has been around for a long time. Modern technologies now make bullying easier as people believe that because they cannot be seen this makes it okay – obviously this is not the case. Cyberbullying is defined as repeatedly sending or posting harmful or mean messages, images, or videos about someone else using the internet and digital technologies.

Our children are now using the internet at a younger age and are looking for new ways to test other people's reactions. They do not always understand the consequences of their actions and this behaviour normally occurs when adults are not around. It is important that we teach our children to be respectful to everyone they communicate with online just as we do in real-life situations. The old saying "Treat others how you would expect to be treated yourself" is now more important to teach than ever.

This unit aims to teach children to identify unkind and bullying behaviours that can occur both in real life and in their online community. It encourages them to discuss how these behaviours make people feel and what we can do if we feel people are being unkind towards us. It also teaches children how to send respectful messages through asking ourselves 'Would I say this to someone's face? Have I used kind words? Have I used good manners? Have I checked my spelling and my capital letters?' It also teaches children what to do if they feel they are a victim of unkind or bullying behaviours online. It is important that we encourage our children to be open about their online behaviours and to talk regularly with trusted adults.

Worksheets

There are three worksheets with this unit – Writing a nice message and two colouring sheets. These can be used as an optional writing activity or as an oracy activity with the teacher scribing what the child says.