

School background

Students in our school are mainly band two and they are not very motivated in learning English. In order to help students understand the elements in the NSS, we integrated some social issue topics in school curriculum as early as in S1 this year so that students can have a taste of what learning social issue is like. This set of notes is a continuation of this year's S. 3 social issue topic – school bullying.

Objectives:

I hope that after finishing the tasks in the worksheets, students will be able

1. explain what a social issue is
2. tell the meaning of cyber bullying
3. analyze the causes and consequences of cyber bullying
4. mention different ways of cyber bullying
5. give advice to different groups of people to curb this problem through discussion
6. summarise and exchange information about cyber bullying in a mind-map or oral discussion activity
7. present and analyse their own findings about cyber bullying in Hong Kong through an oral presentation
8. reflect upon their own performance in the presentation
9. express their own ideas through a writing task
10. show how well they can master the vocab in a test

Rationale

1. Students have already got previous knowledge and experience of learning social issue. This is an integration to their daily learning material.
2. A continuation of the Form 3 social issues topic –from school bullying to internet bullying (spiral learning in terms of scope and depth)
3. There is no need to separate the social issue to what students have been learning in their daily work because it is a repetition of the 4 skills and 9 generic skills.

No. of lessons/Year level

It might probably takes about 114-15 lessons to finish this task for NNS1 students.

Resources

1. news articles
2. internet websites for view video clips and a song
3. worksheets and
4. a sample questionnaire
5. an oral discussion sheet
6. assessment criteria sheets
7. a test

	Teaching steps	Worksheet/Supplementary Readings/Task	No. of lesson/s
1.	Introduce what a 'social issue' is.	Decide what a social is WS 1	} 2 lessons
2.	Definition of 'social issue'	Supplementary reading 1 + WS 1+2	
3.	Introduce the issue topic 'cyber bullying' + how we should look at a social issue	Watch a short video clip from youtube on the internet "Mean Girls: Cyber bullying" Listen to a song and watch pictures about "Cyber bullying"	
4.	Definition of cyber bullying	Supplementary readings 2 +WS 3	
5.	Causes of cyber bullying	WS 4 +WS 5 Supplementary readings	1 lesson
6.	Ways of being cyber bullied	WS 6	0.5 lesson
7.	Consequences of cyber bullying	WS 6	0.5 lesson
8.	Advice to different groups of people to curb cyber bullying	WS 7	2 lessons-3 lessons
9.	Teacher conducts the Oral Discussion + Individual response	A discussion slip	1 lesson
10.	Comparison between cyber bullying and physical bullying	WS 8	1 lesson
11	Set a questionnaire	WS 9+ Supplementary reading 9	0.5 lesson
12.	Prepare students to do a presentation about "Cyber Bullying in Hong Kong"	Teacher assessment criteria	1 lesson
13.	Students do their presentation in class		3 lessons
14.	a. Write a newspaper article about "Have people taken enough notice on cyber bullying in Hong Kong, why or why not? (brighter class/es) b. Write an imaginary story (weaker students) "If you were being cyber bullied on the internet, what would you do?"		2 lessons
15	Test for the whole class	Test paper	0.5 lesson
	Extended Tasks		
1.	Write a formal written report of the analyses	If time allows, some more tasks can be conducted	
2.	A role-play about victim/parent/policeman/teacher		

Supplementary reading 1

Social issues

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (adapted and simplified)

(Redirected from [Social problem](#))

Social issues are matters that affect many people in a [society](#). For example, a killer who kills many people in an area for a number of or years is a problem, but this is not a social issue; it is part of the larger social issue of crime.

Common social issues include poverty, violence, justice, human rights, equality (or discrimination), and crime. People may have different ideas about the issues. And people take different stances. () It can also be called a [community](#) () problem because it is known to concern a large group of people.

Supplementary reading 2

What is Cyber Bullying?

Cyber bullying is using technology to threaten, insult, or harass. Technologies like cell phones and the Internet allow for aggressive expression toward others that doesn't rely on physical strength or even physical contact. **A person who cyber bullies can quickly and aggressively spread rumors, threats, hate mail, or embarrassing photos through text messages, emails, or instant messages.**

Supplementary reading 3

What are social issues?

Supplementary reading 4



May 29, 2007

Bullying has taken on a new frontier, the Internet. The following article provides important information for parents, educators and adults.

Bullying; it's a term that conjures up all sorts of negative images and bad memories. Back in the day, bullying was something most were aware of. It normally happened to or from school, out in the playground or in the school cafeteria. The unlucky victim was constantly on the lookout for the thug who wanted to steal money, take lunches, or make life just plain miserable for the victim. But once the victim made it to the classroom or made it home, the bully could no longer cause harm, at least for the time being. **Today the tactics, the methods and the means of bullying are changing, and changing rapidly. Bullying has taken on a new frontier-the Internet.**

Cyberbullying is the use of electronic information and communication technologies (which include email, websites, text messaging, web logs or blogs, three-way calling, cell phones, photographs, videos, or any other electronic means) **to repeatedly willfully and intentionally** embarrass, intimidate, humiliate, threaten, or harass another.

Studies suggest that cyberbullying is **on the rise**, and is increasing rapidly. Most cyberbullying incidents occur while logged on at home, other incidents happen in chat rooms or via instant messaging. **Many cyberbullying victims personally know the bully, while others do not.**

There are numerous issues concerning online bullying. As previously mentioned, in cases of traditional bullying, the victim had some respite, be it at home or in the classroom. At least there was a safety zone, a safe haven, somewhere. It is another

matter for the target of cyberbullying. The target of electronic bullying can be targeted 24 hours a day, every day of the year, instantaneously. **There is no safety zone for the cyberbully victim.** In face-to-face bullying, there are usually one or two onlookers or witnesses, but with cyber bullying, **there may be hundreds or thousands of onlookers, worldwide.** Studies also suggest the effects of online bullying may be longer lasting than traditional bullying and may **result in poor self-esteem, anger, depression, absenteeism, bad grades and even suicide.**

A key component in electronic bullying is the **anonymity factor**; online bullies are virtually anonymous. Since the online bully is **anonymous, he or she may not face any consequences or punishment for his or her actions.** The lack of immediate feedback, seeing someone's face or expression, may **make it easier to say or do hurtful things online** one may not normally do in "real life".

Many victims do not tell anyone that they have been bullied online and there are several theories why children keep this to themselves. Some may fear that by telling a parent or adult, **the parent may react by restricting access** to that particular device, or by taking away the computer, cell phone or Internet accessibility entirely, hoping that the bullying may stop. Some children believe by **involving an adult, it will make a bad situation even worse** resulting in some form of online or offline retaliation. Others may think they just have to deal with it; it's just the way it is.

Some adults are unaware of cyber bullying. While others may think just because they have **filtering or parental controls** installed on their computer or device, some assume those "safeguards" will alleviate any and all Internet issues, including online bullying. Some adults may think that if their child is being bullied, the child will come to them and let them know. Studies suggest that is simply not the case.

Children are not the only targets of electronic bullying. **Educators, administrators and other adults** are also being victimized. Bullying, whether it occurs offline or on, needs to be addressed.

Supplementary reading 5

Safeguard Your Students Against Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is on the rise and it is a relatively new phenomenon. There were no previous bills and recently Washington State has passed a bill to require schools to include cyber bullying in school district harassment-prevention policies.



“Our students should be safe when they are at school. In fact, that security is necessary for them to learn and to succeed,” said Governor Gregoire. Harassment and intimidation from cyber bullying hurts their ability to learn. Every child deserves a safe, supportive school environment.”

Cyber Bullying by the Numbers

How prevalent is cyber bullying? According to an MSN/UK report, one in eight children (13 percent) feel that cyber bullying is worse than physical bullying. Why? Because cyber bullying *can happen any time of the day, whereas physical bullying is limited to in-person contact.* Also, "cyber bullies" can remain anonymous, which children find a distressing factor. But this is also what makes it appealing to those on the giving end.

In *Cyberbullying and Cyberthreats*, Nancy E. Willard, a leader in issues of Internet safety and ethics, highlights the following social norms of online communities, which can be used to rationalize harmful behaviors like cyber bullying:

- "Life online is just a game."
- "It's not me. It's my online persona."
- "What happens online, stays online."

Although cyber bullying does not necessarily occur on school grounds, schools can help keep their students safe by addressing it in bullying-prevention policies and classroom lessons.

School Policy Tips

Simply adding "cyber bullying" to the already existing language in a bullying-prevention policy won't be enough. Since cyber bullying has many unique aspects, it's important to add language that specifically addresses

it.

Keep in mind that the most effective policies are district-wide. Here are some guidelines.

Define It

Include a definition of cyber bullying to make sure that everyone is on the same page. Keep the definition simple so that students can understand it too. For example, the Committee for Children definition of cyber bullying is “Cyber bullying is when one or more people intentionally harm, harass, intimidate, or reject another person using technology.”

Include Steps for Staff and Students

List the procedures that staff and students should take to maintain a safe and respectful school environment.

Staff examples:

- Teach lessons to educate students about cyber bullying.
- Respond quickly and sensitively to cyber-bullying reports.
- Take seriously families' concerns about cyber bullying.
- Look into all reported cyber-bullying incidents.

Student examples:

- Treat each other respectfully, in person and online.
- Refuse to cyber bully or to let others be cyber bullied.
- Refuse to participate in or encourage any form of cyber bullying.
- Report cyber bullying to an adult when you become aware of it.
- Turn off the computer or cell phone immediately if you are being bullied online.

Since cyber bullying may not actually be committed while your students are in school, it's important to involve families. Chances are you'll need to work closely with students and families to make sure that cyber bullying concerns are taken seriously and dealt with successfully.

by Angela Fountas

Staff Writer

Committee for Children

Supplementary reading 6

Cyber Woolly Bully

(Page 1 of 4)

Cyber-bullying has got so bad that those who were once the victims are now the bullies. Because of the protective veil of anonymity that the cyber world provides, the realm of bullying has been opened up beyond anything any previous generation has seen before. The Journal of Adolescent Health did a [report](#) outlining the data obtained from a special research panel. The study found that over two-thirds of victims say that cyber-bullying is the only form of harassment they ever experience. This then leads to more students with psychological problems and emotional distress. And even though most cyber-bullying is done outside of school, it's logical to assume most student victims are being assaulted by classmates, since school is where they spend most of their time. Most bullying, cyber or otherwise, is going to happen between people who know each other, although the electronic means allows cyber-bullies to have that veil.

Cyber Woolly Bully - What Is It?

(Page 2 of 4)

If you read closely in the report from the Journal of Adolescent Health, you'll see that it's hard to put cyber-bullying in the same class as traditional bullying. They say one of the main qualities of a bullying experience is the “repetition” of aggressive behavior. But with the victim's ability to avoid or return to the electronic attack as often as he/she wants, it seems as though the victim might be willing it on themselves. But either way, the victim does experience some kind of trauma via external torment, and I think that puts them both in the same category.

The online world simply has several inherent features that allow people to misuse it for errant purposes. The main advantage is something I've already mentioned, anonymity. A traditional bully is usually thought of as someone bigger, stronger, or older than the

victim. This doesn't have to be the case with cyber-bullies. It can be anyone imaginable, even a seven-year-old girl that happened to me once. Oh, the humiliation!

Another factor that can partially be blamed on the victims is society's metamorphosis into technical dependence. People, kids especially, can't do anything anymore without their cell phones, and they constantly check email and update their MySpace and Facebook, making it hard for them to avoid cyber-bullying.

The bullies themselves will never stop in their quest to find victims. They of course get personal satisfaction from provoking others and watching them resort to destructive behavior, because they need some way to quell their own inner distaste. They thirst for the victim's reaction because it gives them a feeling of control. And they are almost impossible to deal with.

Cyber Woolly Bully - Examples

(Page 3 of 4)

By now, we've all heard of chat rooms, but have you heard of **bash boards**? They are online bulletin boards where teenagers go and anonymously post anything they want. They work basically the same as chat rooms and have the same vulnerabilities. (an example is deleted here)

Short Message Service (SMS) is a service to send short text messages to mobile phones. The text is composed of just words and numbers. Enhanced Messaging Service (EMS) is the same thing but offers more features. Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) has the capability to send text, sounds, images, and videos to a portable multimedia device.

Of course, cyber-bullies do use email to torment their victims by sending threatening messages. When cyber-bullies want to take their tormenting more public, they usually **create defamatory websites or troll Internet forums**. An Internet troll is someone who purposely posts numerous contentious or derogatory comments about a person or group

in order to bait them into conflict. For a defamatory website, the most logical response would be to contact the ISP so they can address the situation. However, this can be more difficult than you'd think because many ISPs do not have clear Terms of Use or Acceptable Use Policies (AUP).

Another tactic cyber-bullies use has to do with online voting/polling. There are some websites that give users the opportunity to create these online booths, which can then be used to create polls for the “Ugliest, Fattest, Hairiest, Dirtiest, Smelliest, Sluttiest, Scurviest kid at school.” A few of these websites do regulate this kind of behavior, but most of them don't and leave the overseeing to “volunteer” maintainers.

Cyber Woolly Bully - What Can Be Done?

(Page 4 of 4)

Recently, school districts in many states in the US have instituted policies designed to deal with cyber-bullies. The state of Washington has passed a law that requires cyber-bullying be a part of the school district's harassment policies. Also, New York City has already banned the use of portable communication devices in school buildings.

Bullying, like most other problems, is something that needs to be attacked head on. One obvious thing you can do is to be cautious about where you post personal information.

This can be hard for young people who use social networking sites, like MySpace and Facebook, but you can never be too careful, especially considering shows like “To Catch a Predator.” By limiting the number of people with access to this information, it could be easier to identify a bully if such an occasion were to arise.

If you do find yourself being bullied, the best thing would be not to provoke them. A reaction from you will only exacerbate the problem so it's much easier to just change an email address or screen name if the situation calls for it. However, you should keep a record of any instances for future reference.

You can report any harassment to your local law enforcement agency, so that they can determine whether the actions are a punishable offense. If it involves a student, then you should probably also notify school officials.

Despite all we've learned about cyber-bullying, it is still the minority form of bullying among young people. Face to face aggression, be it verbal or physical, is still the most widespread form. However, I think the mental impact of cyber-bullying can be just as damaging as anything face to face. There have already been reports of suicide from around the globe.

There are literally thousands of sites on the Internet dedicated to cyber-bullying prevention, but if you're in need of a quick fix, [this](#) site should suffice. Otherwise, I hope this article has indeed been interesting and informative.

webhosting.devshed.com/c/a/Web-Hosting-Articles/Cyber-Woolly-Bully/3/

Supplementary reading 7

According to experts, however, cyber bullying is harmful. Whether or not it leads to actual physical confrontations. Simon Johnson, author of *Keep Your Children Safe on the Internet* (McGraw-Hill Osborne Media, 2004), believes that one of the most destructive elements to cyber bullying is its invasiveness into an area where teens typically feel safe at their home. "This is a very serious issue," says Johnson, a former IT security specialist. "Unlike traditional bullying where teens can come home and be safe, cyber bullying occurs 24/7."

www.preteenagerstoday.com/articles/safety/cyber-bullies-974/

According to Johnson, cyber bullying is becoming increasingly popular with teens worldwide. It's thought of as an easy way for a tech-savvy generation to harass one another anonymously. There are many ways that teens bully one another depending on how technologically adept the bully is.

Anyone Can Bully

Derek Randal is a former educator who now spends his time trying to stop school violence. He believes one of the most disturbing aspects of this crime is the anonymity. "Individuals who would never bully anyone face o face now are



bullying using technology," he says. "It is an easy way to bully: no confrontation, very little chance of being caught and you don't have to see anyone's face."

Randal believes that teens are held back only by a lack of creativity. One of the latest ways to bully is with camera phones. Pictures taken on a camera phone are then altered to make the victim look different. Web sites are set up and can stay up for years with negative information about anyone.

Signs to Watch For

Parents should be on the lookout for the typical signs that a teen is being bullied: a lack of interest in school, a drop in grades, abrupt changes in friendships, isolation, etc.

Remember that cyber bullying often takes place in the home, maybe even a few feet from where a parent is standing.

A sign that your teen is being cyber bullied is if he becomes highly emotional or shows signs of stress after receiving text messages on the cell phone. If he's being bullied via the Web, then such an emotional state might occur when he is browsing a Web site or opening instant messages.

Steps to Take

Randal says that the first step in putting a stop to the bullying is open communication. "Please do not blame your child, take away their Internet access, phone or punish them for being the victim," he says. Too often parents believe these things will stop the bullying when in truth it just makes the teen feel as if he is being penalized. Your child needs you on his or her side to help with solutions.

"We do not want the child to withhold information because they're afraid of our reaction," Randal says. "Parents will want to teach their child to never give out personal information online (address, telephone number, etc), don't share your passwords or user names and never answer harassing messages." These messages should be saved as proof for the police, the Internet provider and the school administration.

Learn about and teach your teenager about blocking software for e-mails and instant messaging. If your teen is receiving text messages, then you can contact your phone company and report the matter. If there is a Web site that contains inappropriate or defamatory information about your teen, then you need to contact the ISP responsible for hosting it. Contact your own Internet service provider. They may be able to assist. Remember to alert your teen's school to possible problems. Teachers could then watch

out for groups of kids huddling around computers at lunchtime or after school. The IT department may also be able to review their Internet filtering logs to see if students are regularly visiting a specific Web site. If there are any suspicious sites that have suddenly become popular with students, then the sites should be investigated.

Cyber bullying doesn't have to destroy your teen's high school years. With communication, vigilance and know-how, technology can go back to being what it should be: a wonderful tool to inform, entertain and delight your teenager.

<http://www.preteenagerstoday.com/articles/safety/cyber-bullies-974/4/>

Supplementary reading 8

A New Arena for Bullying

Today, anyone with access to the Internet or a cell phone has the tools to cause harm. Anonymity can be a critical factor; it's much easier for those who cyber bully to harass when they are able to hide their identities.

Although traditionally a child who bullies may target another child at school in front of a handful of classmates, the potential audience for someone who cyber bullies is much wider. Humiliating messages can be posted online for hundreds or thousands to see on Web sites, blogs, or social network sites such as MySpace.com, which claims nearly 70 million users.

The Social and Emotional Cost

Those who cyber bully and their targets may suffer socially, emotionally, and academically. "Bullying in general has negative health and social consequences," says Dr. Michele Ybarra, Ph.D., a recognized researcher in Web-related health issues for young people and president of the nonprofit Internet Solutions for Kids, Inc. "Bullying is an important public health issue—whether it happens at home, at school or online—and it's behavior that should not be tolerated."

As with traditional bullying, cyber bullying incidents can be very distressing and upsetting for some youth. Symptoms of depression have been noted among some targets of cyber bullying, says Dr. Ybarra. Research indicates that those who bully and are bullied in traditional environments appear to be at greatest risk of experiencing problems in school, difficulty making friends, loneliness, and problem behaviors such as smoking and drinking. It's possible that similar characteristics are true for youth who bully and are bullied online as well, but research remains to be done in this area, says Dr. Ybarra.

Tips for Educators

- Educate yourself—know what cyber bullying is, who is most likely to bully or be a target, and when a child is most likely to be distressed by an online bullying incident.
- Talk to the parents of the bullying child, who often don't know their child is involved in online bullying.

- If cyber bullying takes place off campus, a school may get involved if the incident poses a substantial likelihood of disruption at school.
- Make sure your school has a bullying prevention program in place.

Tips for Parents

- Teach your child appropriate social skills for online communication.
- Set age-appropriate boundaries for use of technology and online behaviors.
- If your child is not upset by the incident, don't overreact. Partner with your child to come up with a solution.
- Talk to your children about how they feel about the experience and help them deal with any negative feelings they may have as a result.

by Kara Witsoe
Committee for Children

(Many paragraphs in the article have been deleted for students' easier reading)

[Back to list of cyber bullying articles.](#)

Reference

Nansel, T., et al. (2001). "Bullying Behaviors Among US Youth: Prevalence and Association with Psychological Adjustment." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 285(16), 2094–2100.

<http://www.cfchildren.org/issues/cyberbullying/hightechbully/>

Supplementary reading 9

A sample of a questionnaire

Assessment Criteria of the Class Survey

In your group you are going to present the findings gathered from the survey you have conducted. Everyone in the group must speak. This is worth **20%** of your **Daily Mark for Oral. Give a soft copy of the PowerPoint to your teacher for record.** The class survey will be assessed in terms of the two following domains:

Part A. The Design of the survey (10%)

- Sampling
- Reliability of the data gathered
- Data analysis
- Data implications

Part B. Oral Presentation (10%)

- Pronunciation & delivery
- Communication Strategies and group participation
- Vocabulary & language patterns
- Ideas & organization

Assessment Mark Sheet – TEACHER’S USE

Group Number: _____

Group members: _____

Class: _____

Part A: The design of the survey (10%)

Mark: _____/10

Criteria	Comments
Sampling	
Reliability of the data collected	
Data Analysis	
Data Implications	

Part B: Oral Presentation (10%)

Mark: _____/10

Criteria	Comments
Pronunciation & delivery	
Communication Strategies and group participation	
Vocabulary & language patterns	
Ideas & organization	

Acknowledgement of Resources

1. <http://www.preteenagerstoday.com/articles/safety/cyber-bullies-974/3/>
2. <http://www.cfchildren.org/issues/cyberbullying/hightechbully/>
3. webhosting.devshed.com/c/a/Web-Hosting-Articles/Cyber-Woolly-Bully/3/
4. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1useeuZrasQ>
---- a video clip about cyber bullying
5. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0ytCv4XHWo&feature=related>
---- a song with cyber bullying pictures and words

Supplementary reading 10

(A Sample of Survey Results)

Here are the results of a survey. The number in brackets shows the number of votes. ()

I. No. of hours spent on computer games per week

- 0–7 hours (5)
- 8–14 hours (5)
- 15–21 hours (10)
- More than 22 hours (20)

II Favourite types of computer games

- Educational games (1)
- Shooting games (10)
- Action games (25)
- Sports and dancing games (4)

III. Reasons for playing computer games

- meet new friends (6)
- kill time (2)
- get a sense of satisfaction (8)
- have fun (24)

IV Advice they will give if a friend is addicted to on-line games

- help him/her to stop playing on-line games (10)
- spend more time with him/her(3)
- do exercise together (2)
- ask him/her to seek help from other people (21)
- avoid this friend (0)
- other advice (4)

****Optional Reading 1**

Internet bullying warning to parents

Barney Zwartz

November 5, 2007

Advertisement

MORE than one-third of teenage girls in Australia have been **sexually harassed via the internet**, and **more than a quarter admit to cyber-bullying other girls**, according to a survey released yesterday.

A psychologist, Michael Carr-Gregg, told a national conference on bullying in Melbourne that **more than 90 per cent of parents were not taking seriously enough their responsibility to protect their children online**.

"Most parents haven't got a clue," he said. "This is part of the digital divide. Parents have fallen for the two-card trick that what goes **on online is private** and that **children have a right to be online**."

A Victoria Police cyber-safety specialist, Susie McLean, said cyber-bullying affected more young people every day than drug abuse.

"There's no school in Australia not dealing with cyber bullying," Senior Constable McLean said. **It's the number one safety problem confronting young people**."

The cyber survey, run in *Girlfriend* magazine, showed that more than two-thirds of teenagers had **tried to hide their internet use from their families**, and that almost half felt their relationships suffered because of excessive internet use.

Mr Carr-Gregg said the survey, using questions he designed, mirrored academic surveys and was very reliable.

He said cyber safety began with "online contracts" available from the Government online protection website Notalert, but 91 per cent of families had not done so. Many did not have internet filters.

The 26 per cent of girls who admitted cyber-bullying - via mobile phone, email, internet chatrooms and social networking sites such as MySpace - was a significant underestimation because most girls would not admit doing it, he said.

The survey found that more than one-third of girls had been sent sexually inappropriate material via the internet; 70 per cent had accessed pornography sites by accident and 21 per cent on purpose; 41 per cent had been asked to post naked pictures of themselves.

He said sexual harassment - usually messages such as "you're a slut" - was a particularly odious form of bullying.

"The Government emphasises **sexual predators**. What we've found is that the vast majority of sexual predation is from peers.

" In the US, one in five girls has been solicited online. We are nowhere near that, but we'll catch up," Mr Carr-Gregg told the conference.