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'Almost four in every five children (79%) reported being bullied to some degree, and almost half the children (48%) admitted to bullying others at least once.'

Mark Griffiths & Gillian Perkins

Bullies, victims, and the code of silence

Sticks, stones, and words can all hurt

John Balding: Are there questions we should not ask young people?

David Regis: Vandalism or legitimate protest: what do Years 10 & 11 think?



Young People in 1995 is out!

In the late 1980s, media headlines appeared to heighten public interest in the sensitive area of bullying. Schools, parents and children alike are demanding investigations and intervention to conquer this seemingly large and very serious problem.

Smith & Thompson (1991) state that bullying comes under the umbrella of aggressive behaviour and, as with aggressive behaviour generally, bullying intentionally causes hurt (physical or psychological) to the recipient. Furthermore, they state three criteria that distinguish bullying. These are that:

- It is unprovoked.
- It occurs repeatedly.
- The bully is stronger, or perceived to be stronger, than the victim.

Often prevalence of bullying is underestimated because the victims find it hard to tell others. As a consequence, the problem may go unnoticed.

Although research into bullying is now widespread, there has been no previous research in South West England (Devon and Cornwall). This study aimed to establish figures for the

incidence of bullying, in addition to age and gender differences that are associated with it. It should also be noted that previous research into bullying has been confined to state-run schools. As a consequence, this study attempted to redress the balance by investigating bullying behaviours in independent schools also. It was hypothesised that differences between the two types of school may exist due to differing philosophies, ethos, and climate.

The study

From a pool of approximately 2500 pupils, a sample of 767 (248 girls and 519 boys) from eight schools completed the questionnaire. Four schools were independent (183 children) and four were state-run (584 children). It should also be noted that of these schools, three were junior (132 children) and five were senior (635 children). The participating schools were located in the Plymouth area of Devon and the Truro area of Cornwall.

Although there are various ways of defining what bullying is, the questionnaire and definition used in this study were based on the ones developed and tested by Olweus (1991). The

HEALTH RELATED BEHAVIOUR

The Unit's Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire has been completed by 360,482 pupils in 1,867 separate surveys. These survey schools are listed by Education Authority:

- Independent GM Grant-maintained CTC City Technology College

ENGLAND

- AVON
- Blackwell, Gloucester, Stroud
- Bristol
- Bristol East
- Bristol North
- Bristol South
- Chard
- Churchill, Mallett, Bristol
- Compton Grammar, Bristol
- Downend, Bristol
- Easton, Bristol
- Leighton, Bristol
- Littlewood, Bristol
- Marlborough, Bristol
- Northleaze, Bristol
- Northwood, Bristol
- Redland, Bristol
- St George, Bristol
- St George's R.C., Cambridge, Bath
- St Mark's, Bath
- St Thomas More R.C., Bristol
- St Thomas More, Bristol
- Somerleyton, Midsomer Norton
- Spredwell, Bristol
- St Andrew's, Bristol
- Widcombe, Bristol
- Widcombe, Bristol
- Widcombe, Bristol
- Wyvern, Weston-super-Mare
- Barking & Dagenham
- Barking Abbey Comprehensive
- Barnet
- Ashmole, London N14
- Barnsley
- Hall, Birk
- Kirk, Birk
- Wombwell, High
- Bedfordshire
- Alan, Middle, Great Bedford
- Ashcott High, Luton
- Avon, Middle, Dunstable
- Avon, Upper, Dunstable
- Brentford Middle, Houghton, Reals
- Brooklands Middle, L. Buzzard
- Chelmsford High for Girls, Luton
- Chelmsford High for Boys, Luton
- Chelmsford High for Girls, Luton
- Gibbet, Ingersfield Middle, L. Buzzard
- Godlington Middle
- Hackington
- Hackington Upper
- Hackington Upper
- Hackington Upper
- John Bunyan, Bedford
- John Howard Upper, Bedfordham
- Leighton, Bedford
- Wansford Upper, Dunstable
- Mark Rutherford, Bedford
- Northwood Upper, Dunstable
- Queensbury, Dunstable
- Robert Bloomfield Middle, Bedford
- Sharnbrook Upper, Bedford
- Stewartby Middle, Bedford
- Stewartby Upper, Bedford
- St Thomas More, Brickhill
- Vandyke Upper, Leighton Buzzard
- Wootton Bassett, Bedford
- Wootton Upper
- Berkshire
- Bedborough, Maidenhead
- The Emmerbrook, Wokingham
- Fuze Platt Comp., Maidenhead
- Langley Grammar
- Newlands, Maidenhead
- Slough
- Shaw House, Shaw, Newbury

