

Is your child a CYBERBULLY? One in ten UK teens admit to picking on others online

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- By **Jeff Parsons**

Ten percent of UK teens admit to cyberbullying according to a new poll

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Cyberbullying often takes place over social networks with little parental supervision

Cyberbullying has become a worrying internet trend - and a new study has revealed that 9.3% of teenagers actively admit to bullying other children online.

A recent study from broadband provider Europasat found that while one in ten teens admit to cyberbullying, a massive 48% say they've been victims.

Other figures show that 18.9% of teenagers have written "inappropriate" comments about other people's photos and 14% admit to sending outright abusive messages.

Digging deeper, the company was told by 29% of adult respondents and 39.5% of child respondents that social media gave them a platform to say things that they wouldn't normally say in real life.

% of teens who say they're victims of cyberbullies



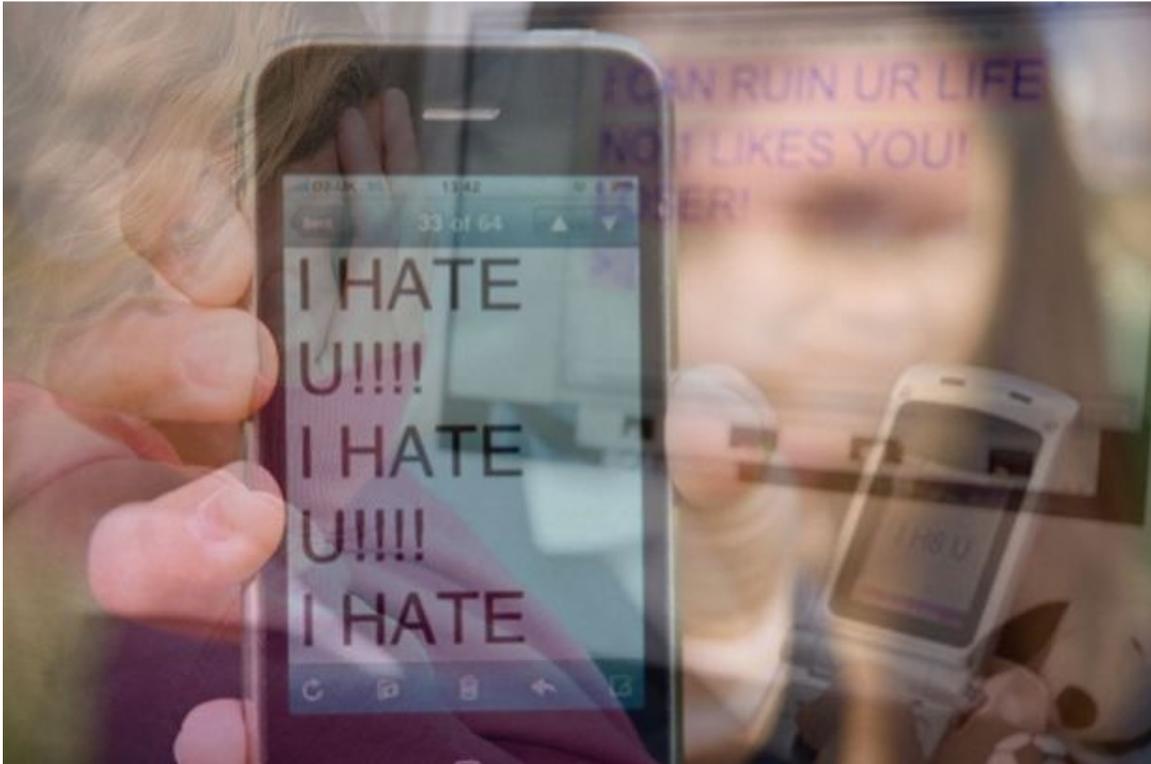
Europasat

"Whilst it's fantastic to have the next generation growing up as early adopters of technology, parents and guardians need to also adapt to the fast changing world that we live in, and become more pro-active in keeping an eye on their children's online activities," said Simon Clifton, chief technology officer at Europasat.

The company questioned 1,000 children between the ages of 13 and 17 years old, covering the most popular social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, WhatsApp and Snapchat.

"I'm not surprised at the figures," Suzie Hayman, a spokesperson for BullyingUK told Mirror Online.

"The problem with the internet and social networks is that you don't see the other person's face. You don't know how to cope with what they're saying. You're part of a crowd where you can find yourself being whipped along. It's very easy to do and it's easy to become part of the mob mentality," she said.



Cyberbullying is a real threat to thousands of children across the UK

The figures come after research from security company Kaspersky showed that children as young as five can be affected by cyberbullying.

"We bring our kids up to cross the road safely and not wander away from mum and dad, but parents aren't necessarily aware of what the risks are in the online world," said David Emm, Senior Security Researcher at Kaspersky Lab.

% of teens who admit to sending abusive messages

14

Teens aged 13-17

Europasat

Risks that could include children themselves targeting other kids online when their parents either aren't aware or aren't able to follow their activities.

"Parents actually just don't know, they're digital immigrants rather than digital natives," said Hayman.

"It's also about setting an example. If you spend too much time at home on a screen, how can you say to your kids they're spending too much time on screens?"

Last year Dustin Athearn, a 13-year-old boy from Georgia, USA set up a fake Facebook account to deliberately ridicule a classmate. His parents are currently facing a costly defamation trial because they let it stay up for almost a year after finding out about it.