

# **An Interview with Junior 4 and 5 students about bullying**

Under the supervision of

Mrs. Mona Riad

Library Activity 2016/2017

Mrs. Nehal Mahmoud

# **Bullying**

## **Presentation:**

Bullying is not a new issue that students and school face. Not everyone gets over the personal trauma that can come with bullying both for victim and the bully. This is why it is seen happening by adults in work places, in homes, and in the community. Therefore, this harassment is not isolated to school alone, but schools are the best place to actively intervene.

## **Reacting to school violence versus bullying:**

The researchers in North America have been actively studying the cases that lead to bullying for fifteen years only concerning the long and short term effects it has on students, and how the school communities can effectively reduce incidents from occurring as well as intervening and supporting students when it does.

The sensationalism of school violence has very much been needed to wake up generations of educators, parents, and students to say 'the behaviours' leading to this violence are not okay in my school, they are a problem and we need to find a way to fix it'.

Violence is a real threat that schools have been facing and educators do need to be aware of, prepared for it, and actively working towards ending it.

For years students have been experiencing power struggles, embarrassment, fear, isolation, guilt, loss of self-esteem, and loss of friends, those should be a good reason for educators, parents and students to work towards finding better solutions to bullying.

## **Definition and Reasons of bullying at schools:**

We define bullying as occurring when a student is exposed to negative action repeatedly by one or more students. If the same person repeats similar negative action, one time, to multiple people; it is bullying. If one person receives a negative action, one time, from someone who has done this to other students, they have been bullied.

The problem with the repeated occurrence requirement is that the waiting period heightens the negative effects on the victim, allows the bully to feel rewarded, increases fear in onlookers, therefore, more diligence in acknowledging negative behaviours and language in the hallways and classrooms is needed by staff and students. Perhaps pointing out any negative behavior, will prevent it from becoming a bullying behaviour.

## In your opinion how bullies can bother their victims at school?

- "Bullies may insult their victims by calling them bad names". Sama / 4 Orange.
- "Verbal bullying includes harmful comments. Students do that bad behavior because they think by this way, they could be better than their victims ". Hla Ossama / 4 Orange.
- "Students may embarrass their victims in front of many people by kicking or pushing them". Zeina Khaled / 4 Blue.
- "There are two types of bullying like: girls who bully each other by words whereas boys bully each other by hitting. In my opinion, teenagers are the most annoying students". Lama Mohamed Sameh / 5 Purple.
- "Bullying is divided into 3 parts like saying bad words, pushing, and embarrassing each other, and they think that this is a funny thing to do". Ahmed Hassan / 5 Blue.
- "Cyber Bullying is a bullying method in which you get teased, annoyed and made fun of on social media web sites. I am talking about this topic because I am always cyber-bullied by other people on Face book". Nadeem Hany / 5 Yellow.
- "There are many Kinds of bullying but I prefer to talk about saying bad words because it happens many a lot in our lives". Abdel Rahman Ali / 5 Yellow.
- "Students may tell someone that he/she got bad marks to give him/her negative energy". Menna / 5 Yellow.

## At which age does the bully start his bad behaviour towards his victims?

- "I see that a 16 year old person hits younger students to show them his strength". Mouaz Mahmoud / 4 Orange.
- "I see that a bully starts at the age of 11 to show other students his power and to prove that the younger students are weaker than he is". Hana Khaled / 4 Orange.
- "I see that when bullies come to the age of 6 or 7, they start bothering people who are younger or weaker than them". Ahmed Ibrahim / 4 Orange.
- "I choose to talk about the age of 16, because most boys at this age bully the weak ones, and I would like to tell them to stop bothering each other and to be friends". Fayrouz Mohamed / 4 Blue.
- "Age of bullying starts from 13 till 19 because they watch action movies. Then, they try to act like the movies". Yassin Tamer / 5 Orange.
- "At the age of 11 to 19 bullies feel that they are strong enough to do whatever they want to do". Seif / 5 Orange.
- "Bullying age starts by the age of 5 up till 16 to show the younger ones how strong they are". Salma Sameh / 5 Purple.

## How does a bully choose his victim?

- "Bullies choose their victims wisely, targeting kids who are unpopular and less likely to be defended by their peers". **Mariam Nader / 5 Purple.**
- "A bully chooses someone who is smaller in size than him". **Moustafa Mohamed / 4 Orange.**
- "The bully chooses the weakest and the youngest to bother them, so they wouldn't seek revenge". **Mounir Moushir / 4 Blue.**
- "I see that bullies choose the smallest, youngest, and weakest person in the school". **Haneen Mostafa Mabrok / 4 Blue.**
- "Bullies choose their victims according to their weakness; After lessons, bullies wait for victims in the corner to fight them or to hit or to do bad things to them". **Rowaz Mohamed / 4 Blue.**
- "They choose the youngest and the weakest person. They hurt, push, and punch them. They also treat them in a very bad way by calling them bad names". **Dima Adel / 4 Blue.**
- "They choose their victims according to the differences between them like their nationalities or their colour". **Karma Haytham / 5 Purple.**
- "Bullies may be different than their victims in many points. For example, their religious beliefs, or their social and financial levels may differ, so they start bothering each other". **Salma Mohamed / 5 Yellow.**
- "Bullies choose their victims according to their age, weakness, or poverty". **Seif Islam / 5 Yellow.**
- "Their victims may be different from them in some ways; they may be smaller in size, or sensitive or quiet and shy". **Jomana Ahmed / 5 Yellow.**
- "Sometimes bullies choose a victim who is coloured. The bully starts bullying him by saying that they are different". **Hana Ahmed / 5 Yellow.**
- "The bully chooses a victim who is cleverer or more polite than he is, so the bully starts bothering him". **Muhammad Gamal / 5 Orange.**
- "The bully chooses his victim according to his kindness, because those who are kind do not do anything for the bullies except saying why did you do that". **Abel Aziz Tarek / 5 Blue.**

## How do they encourage others to join them?

- "Bullies ask others to join them by threatening them that they are not going to play with them again". *Jasmine Ahmed / 4 Green.*
- "Bullies convince others that they are going to have fun bullying each other". *Mahmoud Wael / 4 Yellow.*
- "They can influence you by telling you that they are going to be your friends if you joined them". *Jana Hesham / 4 Purple.*
- "By telling you that bullying is a good thing to do, so that we could have fun". *Aya Sameh / 4 Purple.*
- "They attract others by saying good things about themselves and making fun of others. They want others to join them in order to harm other students. I think they do this bad behaviour because they want to have more friends but in a very bad way". *Sama Emad / 4 Purple.*
- "The bully needs us to join him because he is weak by himself and if we joined him he will achieve his target". *Lara Khaled / 4 Purple.*
- "Bullying is a purposeful attempt to control another through verbal abuse- which can be in tone of voice or in content such as teasing or threats. When bullying takes place in school, the entire environment is affected and the students feel this affect the most. Students then become disrespectful and fearful of their school which can lead to behaviour problems. It also makes it more difficult for students to learn and take full advantage of education they are being offered". *Jana Yasser / 5 Orange.*

## What should you do if you felt being targeted by a bully?

- "I think I should make a chart or a broadcast concerning bullying and how does it affect students negatively". Judy Mahmoud /4 Green.
- "I will tell my parents so that they will discuss that with the school's administration". Yomna Ahmed / 4 Green.
- "I will tell my mother then she will tell the teacher so that the bully would be punished". Abdel Rahman Amr / 4 Yellow.
- I will tell my teacher so that the teacher would take an action with that bully". Ahmed Tarek 4/ Green.
- "I will tell an adult because adults know how to deal with those kinds of people in a good way". Ziad Ahmed Gado / 4 Green.
- "I think I should take his name and class to give them to my parents who will tell the teacher about him so he could take his punishment. Omar Elsayed / 4 Red.
- "I will tell the teacher to talk to the bully so that he would not do this again". Yassin Akram / 4Green.
- "I will tell my mother and try to solve the problem". Omar Khaled Khamis / 4 Green.
- "I will face him by myself ". Youssef Mohamed /4 Green.
- "I will ignore him". Abdel Rahman Mohamed 4/Green.
- "I will give him a lesson by talking to him in a good way by telling him the importance of being a respectful person, so that the whole class will start to like him". Mohamed Ayman / 4 Green.
- "I will tell my teacher or my parents to prevent him from bothering me, and I will keep a distance between us, so that he could not find a chance to talk to me or bother me". Malak Mohamed / 5 Green.
- "Sometimes adults may not do anything when you tell them about a bully, the right person who will stop the bully is **you**, so if the bully makes fun of your clothes, size or colour, laugh along with him, so that you take their power when you do that". Mariam Reda / 5 Green.

## What should you do if you have a bully in your class?

- "I should talk to him slowly and tell him how wrong is it to hit or threaten a victim and tell him that bullying is a wrong behavior and this is not allowed by all means". Farida Yasser / 4 Purple.
- "I should advise him first not to annoy any of his classmates. He should be wiser and thoughtful of others, but if he didn't respond to my advice I will tell my teacher about him so that he could be punished". Nour Hossam / 4 Blue.
- "I would tell him that what he is doing is wrong and I will try to talk to him in a friendly way to tell him to stop this bad behavior". Wafaa Hafez / 4 Blue.
- "I could tell the teacher, but the most effective way in my opinion is that all students must put their hands together and work this problem out". Haidy Mohamed / 4 Yellow.
- "I will tell an adult to solve the problem between us". Jomana Mohamed / 4 Yellow.
- "I should tell him that this behavior is not allowed, and then let him be the best in class and ask all our classmates to be his friends, in that way he will turn into a good person". Melora Ramez / 4 Purple.
- "First I will tell my parents, then I'll try to talk to him, and I will try to make him a better person, finally I'll be his friend". Maria Ragaie / 4 Purple.
- "I will try to talk to him and ask him not to bother anybody again". Mariam Wagih / 4Purple.



## Why do you think a bully acts in that way?

- "May be because they had problems at home when they were young, then when they grow up, they decided to get out their negative energy by bullying anybody else". Shantal Ashraf / 4 Red.
- "I think because their parents treated them in a bad way". Rowan Magdy / 4 Red.
- "May be they were victims when they were weak and when they became stronger, they changed their attitude". Ahmed Yasser / 4 Red.
- "He may feel lonely and he thinks in that way he could get some friends". Rokaia Reda / 4 Red.
- "They may think that they are different than other students". Mahmoud / 4 Red.
- "May be because they are stronger than the other students and they want to show their strength ". Omar Ahmed / 4 Red.
- "They may have problems concerning their families". Rejan / 4 Red.
- "To show his colleagues how strong he is". Joudy Mohamed Hamdy / 4 Blue.
- "I think may be, because he has some psychological problems and he needs to visit the doctor and have a suitable therapy". Farah Mohamed Younis / 4 Yellow.
- "When the person has psychological problems, he acts in that way". Abdel Rahman Wael / 5 Yellow.

## How can a victim turn into a bully?

- "When an innocent person sees how bullies show their power to other students he thinks by this way he could gain more friends. Then, he turns himself into a bully". Malak Karim / 4 Yellow.
- "May be some kids like the show a bully does, so they change their attitude". Habiba Ahmed / 4 Yellow.
- "May be the victim changes his attitude just to be as famous as the bullies". Rozana Asser / 4 Yellow.
- "Once the victim becomes stronger, he will show the bullies that he is not weak anymore, so he could bully any weaker student, too". Nadeen Khaled / 4Yellow.
- "When they had been affected by bullies, they wait for a good chance to have revenge from the bullies so they turn into bullies". Heba Mohamed Mamdoh / 4 Blue.
- "When the victim grows up or becomes stronger he acts like bullies as if he thinks that attitude let younger students respect him". Ahmed Gaber / 5 Orange.
- "Victims turn into bullies just to show their power to weaker students". Ahmed Moatasem / 5 Yellow.
- "Sometimes victims seek revenge from bullies just to show them how powerful they are". Seif El Din Walid / 5 Yellow.

### **Regulations to be set:**

- School needs to have support from families, also needs strategies to work with. Schools need to adopt and maintain a whole-school prevention program by creating solid policies addressing bullying and assessing them annually. This should be done by creating a communication network linking all students, staff, administration, and parents.
- Schools act as a moderator of this information providing evening workshops and presentations for the community connecting parents to outside supports, and providing students with developmental and comprehensive programming raising awareness.

Therefore the positive school climate involves dedicated individuals who are making conscious efforts to enhance a better educational environment.

- School needs a plan to start a counseling department.
- Both a female and a male specialist should be available for students to talk to.
- Counseling services need to be provided for any student who is involved in with bullying at school whether they are victims or bullies.
- A specialist and the school principal will need to take a lead role in a prevention program so as to provide appropriate interventions for students who are being bullied, students who are doing the bullying and students who are witnessing the bullying and being affected by the atmosphere of bullying.
- The counselor will work closely with parents as well providing information and possible referrals for further counseling services either through the divisional clinicians.
- Specialists can work hand in hand with teachers to find applicable solutions to this problem.

This will help both students and staff to develop and practise the concepts, language and behavior needed to be assertive in combating bullying within their schools.

### **Conclusion:**

Bullying does not need to be a reality that students face. As more schools adopt whole-school prevention program and actively work with students, staff and parents effectively addressing the issue of bullying in each individual school, students will develop into adults with empathy for one another, acceptance of personal differences, and knowledge of how school solve problems and resolve conflict. By intervening with students during their school years, the bully-victim cycle that takes place in adolescence and adulthood may decline with each graduating class. Thus, ending the bully-victim cycle that takes place in early years and eventually putting an end to behaviours that have grown to crisis status in recent years.