SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Working together to keep our young people safe

Middle School | November 2024

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week is Monday 11th- Friday 15th November. The theme for this year's anti-bullying week is '*Choose Respect.*'

In this issue:

- Anti-bullying week: Choose Respect
- Supporting your child with possible bullying
- App focus: Roblox

Bullying, as defined by the Anti-Bullying Alliance is: The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online.

Respect is crucial in preventing bullying because it fosters understanding, empathy and kindness. When children learn to respect one another's differences and viewpoints, they are less likely to find reason to behave in a bullying manner towards others. By promoting mutual respect, children are encouraged to treat others in the way they want to be treated, which helps break the cycle of bullying and builds a more positive and support culture amongst children.

How can parents help children develop respect for others?

1.
   Model respectful behaviour around them, treating others with kindness and patience
2.
   Encourage children to express their views and feelings in a way that does not harm others
3.
   Have open conversations about diversity and how to treat everyone equally
4.
   Teach children the value of kindness through everyday actions such as sharing and using kind words

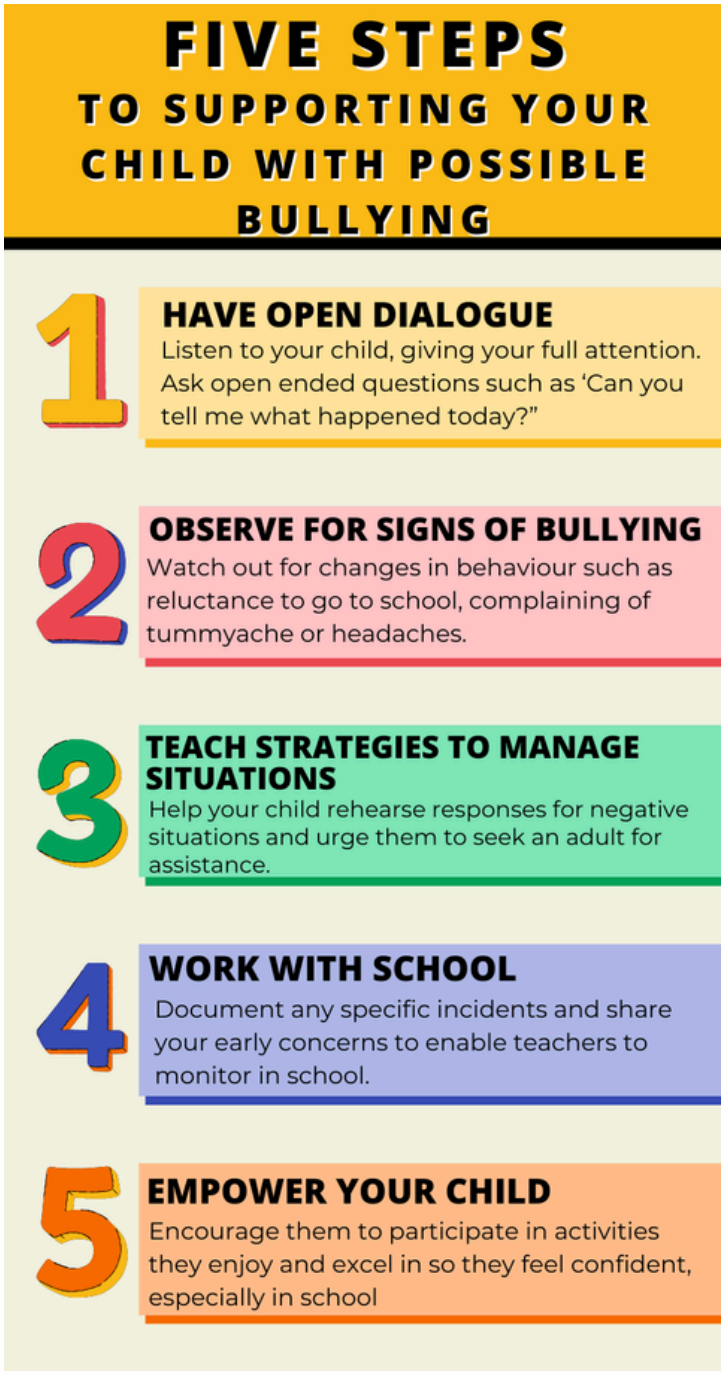
If you are concerned about the way your child responds to others, speak to their teacher. Teachers are highly skilled when it comes to managing relationships between children, they understand how to support children to develop empathy, patience and kindness for one another. They will be able to offer guidance.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Supporting your child through suspected bullying

As children form friendships, particularly in school, it can be a challenge to determine if negative behaviours have escalated into bullying. The definition provided earlier can assist with this, but if you have concerns, it's essential to handle the situation delicately and offer steady emotional support.
See right for steps parents can take to support their child.

It is important to remember that no school accepts or tolerates bullying behaviours. It is important to work with school to resolve any issues.



Roblox: Ensuring children's safety while using the platform

Roblox is enjoyed by 25 million children globally; however, an increasing number are reporting encounters with harmful, distressing and inappropriate content on the site.
Here are some reasons for these concerns:

- The platform features user-generated content, meaning the games are crafted by other users. Some of these games may include elements of violence, horror and sexual content.
- Roblox incorporates social features like chat and private messaging, which can expose children to interactions with potentially unsafe strangers, increasing the risk of grooming and exploitation.
- The patform uses a virtual currency called Robux that can be purchased with real money, leading to children unintentionally spending significant amounts on in-game purchases without realising the real-life cost.

4 ways to keep your child safe whilst using Roblox:

1) Monitor their playtime: check what they are playing and who they are playing against. Understand the games.
2) Discuss online safety: explain the risks of strangers online and how they may not be who they say they are.
3) Set boundaries on games times and how much they can spend on in-game purchases.
4) Use the parental controls on the platform. You can do this through the settings once logged in.