



Communicating With Parents of Children Involved in a Cyberbullying Incident

Here are some top tips for teachers when communicating with parents of children involved in a cyberbullying incident.

- Have all the **information and facts** regarding the bullying situation **to hand** when speaking with parents.
- **Listen to parent's concerns** and **show understanding** of their feelings.
- **Explain**, as necessary, **the definition of cyberbullying** so parents can understand why the incident constitutes cyberbullying and understand the impact on the person who experiences it along with why someone might engage in cyberbullying behaviour.
- **Inform parents** of the school's Anti-Bullying and Acceptable Use Policies and Procedures for dealing with cyberbullying including **the steps that have been taken so far**, the **consequences** for cyberbullying, and **plans to monitor** the situation.
- **Encourage parents to talk to their children** about respectful online communication, their digital footprint, developing empathy and appreciating differences.
- Advise parents to **avoid threatening to take away access to devices** or the internet as a way to resolve the issue but rather **engage in a non-judgemental conversation** with their child about their habits online and model safe and respectful on and offline behaviours.
- **Discuss supports available to their child**, as needed, e.g. counselling, extra-curricular activities to boost self-esteem, additional learning supports.
- **Direct parents to supports available for them** e.g. National Parents Council, Webwise Parent's Hub (webwise.ie/parents).

