

Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

# FRIENDS, ENEMIES OR FRENEMIES?

How to support a child being bullied

**Useful Apps:** 



Fabulous - Daily Routine Planner



Zipit



What's Up?

Unless stated otherwise, apps are not supplied by the NHS and the NHS is not liable for their use.

Services provided by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

# FRIENDS, ENEMIES OR FRENEMIES?

How to support a child being bullied

## WHEN TO BE CONCERNED?

If a young person reports bullying, whether direct or indirect, this should always be cause for concern and addressed by validating the young person's experiences and feelings as well as working to resolve the situation as soon as possible.

### WHAT TO DO:

- Some forms of bullying are illegal e.g. violence or assault, theft, repeated harassment or intimidation, (e.g. threats and abusive phone calls, emails or text messages and hate crimes) and should be reported to the Police
- Let your child's school or college know how much they are struggling so they can offer help, support and advice
- Validate how the young person is feeling; do not minimise or discount the impact of bullying
  the impact of bullying is not linked to the severity, intensity or frequency
- Protect time and space to listen without interruption
- Encourage the young person to engage in hobbies and other activities that will boost their self-esteem and help them build positive supportive relationships with others
- There is a lot of information on the Hampshire CAMHS website: hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/ help/young-people/bullying-yp/
- Watch this film on 'How to support a young person who is being bullied': bit.ly/3ulJyHL

#### WHAT MIGHT IT LOOK LIKE?

Changes in a young person's behaviour and body language cannot indicate for certain that bullying is happening. However you may notice the following:

- Unexplained injuries
- Lost or broken possessions
- Low self-esteem; feeling worthless, helpless and hopeless
- Anxiety, agitation or aggression (verbal or physical)
- Difficulties concentrating and poor motivation - you may notice a decline in academic performance
- Withdrawing from social situations
- Change in attitude or behaviour
- Disinterest and loss of enjoyment in hobbies and interests
- Difficulty sleeping
- Bed wetting
- Truanting or feigning sickness
- Declining grades and a lack of interest in school

Bullying is a word used to describe deliberate behaviour that causes upset and hurt to another person. There are many forms of bullying which can include 'teasing', 'banter' as well as online bullying. Online bullying includes being bullied via mobile phone, email, messaging services and social media.