

e-Safety (Cyberbullying)

What is Cyberbullying?

The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF), define cyberbullying as

“Cyberbullying is the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else”.

Why it is bad

Cyberbullying unlike bullying that takes place in a face to face or physical environment includes a variety other factors such as:

1. 24/7 invasion of home/personal space
2. The audience can be very large and reached rapidly
3. People who cyberbully may attempt to remain anonymous
4. The profile of the bully is not generalizable to younger individuals and can include adults
5. Some instances of Cyberbullying are known to be unintentional
6. Many Cyberbullying incidents can themselves act as evidence

The implications from the above list, can lead to young people and vulnerable adults feeling isolated and misunderstood and they may feel that what is happening to them cannot be prevented or stopped by the staff within the University. Previously safe and enjoyable environments and activities can become threatening and a source of anxiety to people suffering from Cyberbullying, and can potentially lead to the victims feeling like they can no longer attend the University to complete their studies.

How students can protect themselves

According to the *anti-bullying alliance (2009)* the following actions can help you to protect yourself:

- Keep Evidence
- Don't reply or retaliate
- Always respect others
- Block and Report it to the appropriate individual
- Do not give out your online accounts and passwords
- Tell someone (see below)

UCB Procedure

University College Birmingham has a statutory and moral duty to ensure the welfare and safety of young people and vulnerable adults receiving education and training here at UCB and is committed to the highest standard of protection for its students and staff.

In providing a safe environment for all users of University College Birmingham's electronic and web-based systems, UCB reserves the right to take disciplinary action against users whose deeds, actions or behaviour constitute cyberbullying or other forms of harassment be that in the form of email, mobile phone text messaging or other computer based mediums such as social networking, instant messaging or chat forums.

For more information regarding Safeguarding, access the University's official [Safeguarding Policy and Procedure](#)

Who you should contact

In the event that you become a victim of such behaviour, you should immediately report the incident to the designated Safeguarding lead (as per the Canvas Policy) and endeavour to save a copy of the dialogue as evidence.

Following a full and thorough investigation, the University will act in accordance with established disciplinary procedures as explained in the [General Student Regulations](#) and in the University's [Disciplinary Procedure](#)