Cyber–Bullying

This lesson is aimed at 14- to 16-year-olds and looks at what cyber-bullying is as well as exploring Christian responses to it

Resources

PowerPoint presentation

Curriclum Links

Christian attitudes to peace and conflict

Christian attitudes to prejudice and discrimination

Aims

To understand what cyber-bullying is and how victims should respond

To explore Christian viewpoints on bullying

Starter

Ask students to complete the sentence 'Cyber-bullying is….'

When all students have completed this, ask a few to share their thoughts. Go on to explain the definition, clearing up any misconceptions.

Main activities

Ask students to tell the person next to them what they think they should do if they experience cyber-bullying. Ask for some feedback and go over what they should do if they are unsure, as shown on the presentation.

In groups ask students to list all the reasons they can think of that someone would become a cyber-bully. Give the groups five minutes, and then ask someone from each group to feed back the reasons allowing students to explain the reasons further. You may want to add to their thoughts if helpful.

Read through as a class the story of Sarah. Then give each group one of the questions (Slide 7) written on a sheet of A3 paper. Ask the students to discuss the questions and write down any thoughts they have. If time allows, after a few minutes you may want to ask each group to swap their sheet with another group and add to each others' ideas and thoughts. Go through the questions as a class, leading the discussion on what Sarah may be feeling.

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Explain that we are now going to look at some Christian responses to bullying. Write all of the Bible texts shown on the presentation on A3 paper and stick them around the room. Students are to look at each sheet and write on it what they think this has to do with bullying, or any questions they have about the text. After ten minutes ask th students to stay with the teaching they are at and get them to read out the thoughts and questions. Allow other students to add any thoughts or answers and add to the discussion where necessary.

Plenary

Ask students to name one thing they should do if they experience cyber-bullying and then ask them to name one thing a Christian might believe about bullying and why.

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