Cyberbullying

What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is a form of bullying that takes place online and can take many forms, such as sending malicious messages. Cyberbullying can happen at any time of the day, so often feels unrelenting. It can take place across many different platforms, such as on messaging apps like WhatsApp and Snapchat, on social media platforms such as Instagram and TikTok and via online games. Here are some examples of what cyberbullying can look like online:

- Sending nasty or hurtful messages
- Leaving unkind comments
- Sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission
- Excluding somebody on purpose
- Impersonating somebody with a fake account
- Telling/sharing lies
- Blackmailing

What should I do if my child is being bullied online?

If your child is being bullied, then try to stay calm and let them know that it is not their fault. It is always useful to keep evidence of any online bullying and inform us at school so that we are aware. Show your child how to block and/or report any users/content and review their privacy settings to limit what others can see. You may also wish to review/set up any available parental controls.

Further information

There is a vast amount of information available online about cyberbullying. The following links provide further information on types of online bullying, and who you can contact if you need any further advice or support.

https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/online-bullying/
Online Bullying - UK Safer Internet Centre

ALERT PURP / APK App

PURP is a social networking app rated as 12+ on the App store. PURP state that it is a 'meet and chat' platform, allowing users to swipe right to send a friend request. If they accept, then you can chat with each other. As users are connecting with strangers, we would not recommend this app being used by teens/children. There are clearly potential safeguarding concerns, such as inappropriate contact or content.

This article from the NSPCC provides further information about chat apps , plus outlines the risks of chat rooms:
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/