

1. NSPCC records 88% rise in children seeking help for online abuse January 2017

The number of children and young people tormented by online trolls has increased by 88% in five years, according to a report by a leading children's charity.

The NSPCC study shows that the charity's helpline service, ChildLine, counselled 4,541 children about online bullying in 2015-16, compared with 2,410 in 2011-12.

The findings follow recent figures that showed that almost a quarter of a million children and young people are receiving help from NHS mental health services for problems such as anxiety, depression and eating disorders.

To coincide with the start of anti-bullying week, the NSPCC said that in a quarter of its counselling sessions children and young people were also given help with mental health and wellbeing issues including low self-esteem, self-harm, suicidal thoughts and depression.

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/nov/14/nspcc-records-88-rise-in-children-seeking-help-for-online-abuse>

2. Children see 'worrying' amount of hate speech online

One in three internet users between the ages of 12 and 15 say they saw "hate speech" online in the past year, according to Ofcom's latest survey of children's media habits. It is the first time the UK regulator has posed a question about the topic in its annual study. The NSPCC charity said the finding was "very worrying", adding such posts should not be tolerated. The report also indicates children are spending more hours a week on the net. And it suggests that many of the children are too trusting in Google.

More than a quarter of eight-to-15s who used a search engine said that if the US firm listed a link then they believed its contents could be relied on.

Ofcom said most of these children had mistakenly assumed that the results were chosen by some kind of authoritative figure who had hand selected accurate pages .

Hateful media

The report was based on interviews carried out with 2,059 families between April and June. The hate speech question asked: "In the past year, have you seen anything hateful on the internet that has been directed at a particular group of people, based on, for instance, their gender, religion, disability, sexuality or gender identity?"

The children were told this could involve hateful comments, images or videos posted to social media including YouTube.

Of the 12-to-15-year-olds who replied, 27% said they had "sometimes" seen instances of hate speech over the past year, and a further 7% said they had "often" seen examples.

Link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-37989475>

E safety Update



3. Twitter users to get ability to mute

January 2017

words and conversations

New tools aimed at helping users avoid seeing abusive threads .

After nine years, Twitter users will finally be able to mute specific conversations on the site, as well as filter out all tweets with a particular word or phrase from their notifications.

The much requested features are being rolled out today, according to the company.

Muting conversations serves two obvious purposes: users who have a tweet go viral will no longer have to deal with thousands of replies from strangers, while users stuck in an interminable conversation between people they don't know will be able to silently drop out of the discussion.

A broader mute filter serves some clear general uses as well. Users will now be able to mute the names of popular TV shows, for instance, or the teams playing in a match they intend to watch later in the day, from showing up in their notifications, although the mute will not affect a user's main timeline. "This is a feature we've heard many of you ask for, and we're going to keep listening to make it better and more comprehensive over time," says Twitter in a blogpost.

"Our hateful conduct policy prohibits specific conduct that targets people on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religious affiliation, age, disability, or disease. Today we're giving you a more direct way to report this type of conduct for yourself, or for others, whenever you see it happening," the company said. "This will improve our ability to process these reports, which helps reduce the burden on the person experiencing the abuse."

Twitter says the amount of abuse, bullying, and harassment seen across the internet has risen sharply over the past few years,. It said. "These behaviours inhibit people from participating on Twitter, or anywhere. Abusive conduct removes the chance to see and share all perspectives around an issue, which we believe is critical to moving us all forward. In the worst cases, this type of conduct threatens human dignity, which we should all stand together to protect."

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/nov/15/twitter-users-to-get-ability-to-mute-words-and-conversations>

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- come into school and talk to a member of Student Services