

Cyberbullying News Articles



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Attack of the cyber bullies: How one British child in five falls victim to aggressive behaviour online

By Daniel Bates



Cyber bullying is more of a problem for British children than almost any others in the world. One in five boys and girls aged six to nine reported being the victim of 'aggressive or unpleasant' behaviour online. This is partly because children in the UK use social networks for longer than any other country. One in ten of those questioned said they used Facebook, even though they were well beneath the minimum age limit of 13.

Levels of cyber bullying are much higher in the UK than elsewhere. Experts said that parents needed to reassess the risks of allowing their children access to the internet, particularly on smartphones which are impossible to supervise. The proportion of 20 per cent reporting bullying was far higher in the UK than the U.S., Australia, Japan and France, and second only to Spain, where the figure was 25 per cent.

The study by the internet security firm AVG found that just under one in ten children aged six to nine spent ten hours or more each week on the internet.

Some 25 per cent said they used email and a staggering 64 per cent social networking sites. AVG chief executive JR Smith said the data was 'compelling' and he urged more parents to speak to their children about internet safety.