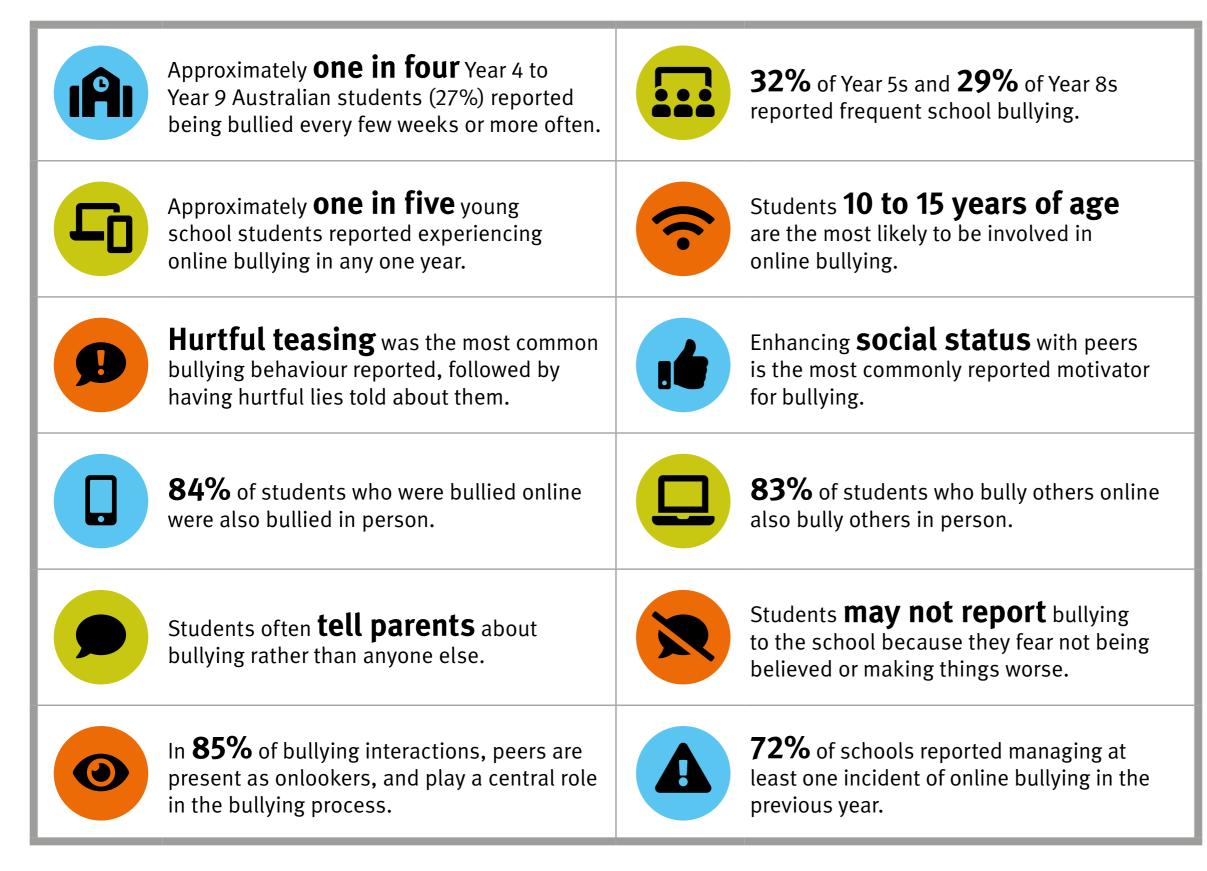
Bullying in schools facts and figures





A shared definition and understanding is critical to finding positive and lasting solutions for everyone involved.

The national definition of bullying for Australian schools is the starting point for bullying prevention

Bullying is an **ongoing** and **deliberate misuse of power** in relationships through **repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour** that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological **harm**. It can involve an **individual or a group** misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Bullying can happen **in person or online**, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be **obvious** (overt) or **hidden** (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records).

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have **immediate**, **medium and long-term effects** on those involved, including **bystanders**. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.