

Banter or Bullying?

Year 5 Online Safety – Online Bullying

Autumn Term 2

This half term, we are learning about banter, teasing and bullying, and how the same words or actions can feel different for different people.



Hello families,

We are learning about what 'banter' means, how it can be different from bullying, and how the same joke or comment can be experienced differently by different people.

We will be thinking about how to recognise when something is playful and when it crosses the line, and how to be kind and respectful online.



Key Learning



I can describe what 'banter' is.



I can describe how I would know if something was banter.



I know that bullying is different from banter.



Key Vocabulary

Banter

Playful teasing or joking, where everyone is comfortable and it is kind and good-natured.

Bullying

Repeated, intentional behaviour that is hurtful and can make someone feel upset, uncomfortable or unsafe.

Power

Banter usually happens between people with equal power – for example, friends of similar age and status.

1 What is banter?

Banter is usually playful teasing or joking between people who know each other well. It should be kind, funny and something that everyone is happy with.



2 How is bullying different?

Bullying is not a joke. It is repeated, intentional behaviour that is hurtful and can make someone feel sad, upset or unsafe. It can happen online or in person.

It happens over and over again.

It is hurtful.

It may be hard to stop.

It can make someone feel left out.

It might be about someone's looks, interests or something they've said.

It can happen online (e.g. in games, group chats or on social media).

3 How do we know if it's banter?



Things to think about:

- ✓ Does everyone find it funny?
- ✓ Is it kind and good-natured?
- ✓ Is it a one-off or happens sometimes?
- ✓ Do both people have equal power?
- ✓ Would it be okay if the roles were reversed?
- ✓ Would you say it to someone you don't know well?
- ✓ Does it stop if someone asks?
- ✓ Does it make everyone feel included?

4 Things to talk about at home

- What jokes do you find funny?
- Do people always find the same things funny?
- Have you ever been on the receiving end of a joke that you didn't find amusing?
- How did that make you feel?
- What is the difference between banter and bullying?
- If someone says "It was only a joke!", do they still need to apologise?



5 Try this together

Look at some example situations below and decide: is it banter or bullying? Talk about why.



A friend teases you about losing a game once.



Someone keeps making unkind comments about your appearance in a group chat.



You and a friend joke about a silly nickname that makes you both laugh.



Someone often leaves you out of online games and sends nasty messages.

6 Remember...



Be kind – make sure your jokes and comments are positive.



Think about how others might feel – everyone is different.



If something doesn't feel right, speak to a trusted adult.



It's okay to ask for help if you see or experience bullying online.



Be Safe | Be Kind | Be Aware

Further support and information

- NSPCC
- UK Safer Internet Centre
- Childnet



For more advice and guidance, visit our Online Safety page on the Trinity School website.

