

Tackling Bullying and Power imbalances through restorative practice

Luke Roberts – Senior development Officer, Equalities and Bullying



What is bullying:

- Department of Education definition:
- *Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.*



ABA Definition

1. bullying behaviour deliberately causes hurt (either physically or emotionally)
2. bullying behaviour is repetitive (though one off incidents such as the posting of an image, or the sending of a text that is then forwarded to a group, can quickly become repetitive and spiral into bullying behaviour)
3. bullying behaviour involves an imbalance of power (the person on the receiving end feels like they can't defend themselves)

The issue of power



Forms of bullying:

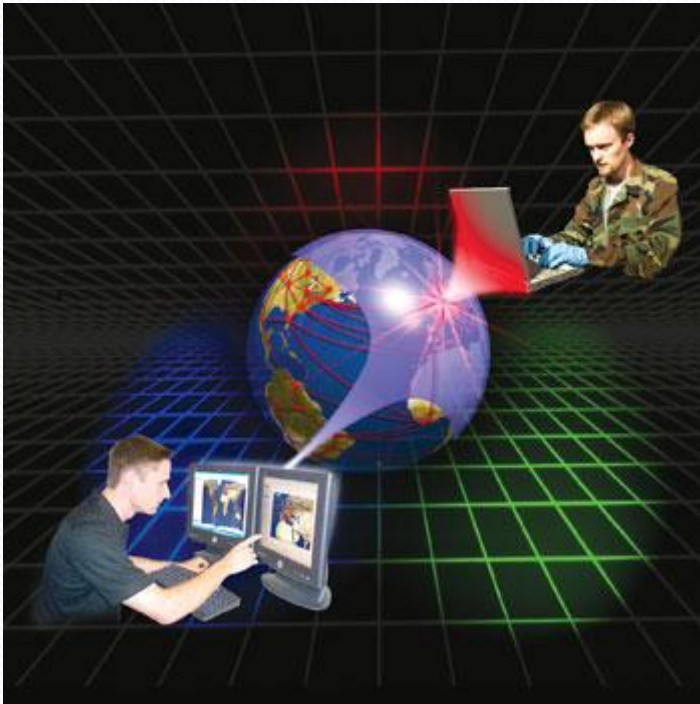
- Physical
- Psychological
- Theft
- Social Isolation

The Equalities Act 2010

1. covers age,
2. *disability*,
3. gender reassignment,
4. pregnancy and maternity,
5. *race*,
6. religion or belief,
7. *sex and sexual orientation*

Cyber-bullying: Challenge for the Restorative Practitioner?

- Time delay
- Identity – anonymisation
- Ambiguity



Restorative Practice

Challenge of restorative practice when addressing bullying.

- Proximity
- Power
- Follow-up

ABA – Bullying and Restorative Practice

- There is little evidence that restorative approaches works with bullying, what do we need to prove?

ABA – More schools are claiming to use RP

- The DfE report on Effective use Anti-Bullying Strategies in schools: Developing a Restorative Ethos. <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-RR098> London PRUs – Back on Track. <http://www.londonprus.co.uk/>
- What is the evidence of this?
- What more do restorative practitioners need? Or need to do?

Anti-Bullying Alliance

- Contact Us:
- <http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

