

# Why cyberbullying might not be reported

Ages 16+



THE CYBERSMILE FOUNDATION

# Why cyberbullying might not be reported

## OBJECTIVE

To understand the reasons why a cyber victim or a bystander may choose not to report cyberbullying.

## OUTCOME

To understand that not reporting cyberbullying can have harmful effects.


To appreciate that it takes a lot of courage to report cyberbullying.

# LETTER 1


“Dear Aunt Claire,  
I witnessed a person sending a rude SMS to someone who she has been bullying for a while now. I wanted to stop her, but was ..... to do it in case she ..... . I felt really ....., especially since I know the person who received the message. I’m not sure what to do because I can’t stop .....  
Please give me some advice.”

# LETTER 2

“Dear Uncle Jack,  
I have been receiving very ..... and ..... messages on my Facebook account for about 2 weeks and I am getting really ..... . I know who the person is. He goes to my school and he acts completely ..... in class. I want to tell a teacher, but I don’t think they ..... . Please, please, please can you help me?”



**Why else do you  
think cyberbullying  
may not be  
reported?**



**What are the  
negative effects  
of not reporting  
cyberbullying?**

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## MATERIALS

A copy of the letters (you can use the accompanying slides), lined paper, pens.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Introduce the exercise to the class, and present the objectives and outcomes.
2. Present everybody with the two letters from the accompanying slides.
3. Ask the students to complete the gaps in the letters appropriately and encourage some volunteers to read their completed versions out.
4. Ask volunteers to state why the writers of both letters did not report cyberbullying.
5. Discuss with the class other reasons for why cyberbullying may not be reported such as fear, lack of trust in the organization's authority to resolve the matter and the negative effects it can have. For example, the cyberbullying can get worse, it can make the cyber victim feel more sad, more people may join in cyberbullying the cyber victim, the cyber victim may feel very alone, it can affect their schoolwork, and the cyberbully can begin to bully other people if they are not stopped.
6. Ask the students to write a reply to one of the letters.
7. Get the students to read out their responses and discuss.
8. End the exercise by stating to the students that it can take a lot of courage to report cyberbullying, but not doing so can have more dangerous effects.