Anti-Bullying Week 2019

IMPACT REPORT

“It stopped a lot of bullying in my school.”
From a pupil

“I think it brought us all closer together.”
From a teacher
ABOUT ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2019

Anti-Bullying Week in 2019 took place from Monday 11th to Friday 15th November. It was coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, as it is each year, which is based at leading children’s charity the National Children’s Bureau. This year we were lucky enough to have the support of O2 as official partner. This report brings together the activity and impact from the week.

The aims of Anti-Bullying Week 2019

Change Starts With Us was the theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2019 and was developed with young people. Our message was that whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child’s life well into adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone. Because together, we can challenge bullying. Change starts with a conversation. It starts with checking in. It starts with work together. Change starts here. Change starts now. Change starts with us.

The goal was to inform schools and settings, children and young people, parents and carers to know that it takes a collective responsibility to stop bullying. We created an empowering, positive messages addressing the fact that when it comes to bullying CHANGE STARTS WITH US!

Odd Socks Day in Anti-Bullying Week

Aimed at early years and primary school children (plus their parents, organisations, schools and teachers), Odd Socks Day is an opportunity to have fun, be yourself and spread awareness of the core values Anti-Bullying Week promotes. Taking part could not be simpler - all we ask is for children and adults to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

Odd Socks Day is supported by CBeebies star Andy Day, and his band Andy and the Odd Socks, and SafeToNet. Andy and the Odd Socks wrote a song called ‘Change’ to support this year’s Odd Socks Day.


1. From a survey of 1,002 pupils (aged 5-16) in the UK by Censuswide
2. From a survey of 1,002 teachers in the UK by Censuswide
3. From a survey of 1,002 pupils (aged 5-16) in the UK by Censuswide
Young people set out their recommendations for change as our poll revealed that children are missing school, avoiding social media and changing their journey to and from school to avoid being bullied.

Our poll suggested that many children are missing school and avoiding spending time with friends to escape bullying. As a result of this research, the young people we worked with made recommendations for tech companies, government, media, influencers, parents, young people and schools.

The survey of over 1,000 11 to 16-year-olds shows the scale of bullying children are experiencing on a day-to-day basis.

- Nearly a quarter (24%) saying they have been bullied once a week or more during the last six months.
- Nearly one child in every classroom (3%) said they are bullied every day.
- One in ten children (11%) said they have missed school due to bullying.
- Even greater numbers have changed their route to school (14%).
- Nearly one in five (19%) have steered clear of spending time with friends to avoid being bullied.
- Nearly one in five (19%) have avoided social media and online gaming because of bullying.

While many of the children who had been bullied said it happened in school (83%), other flashpoints included their journey to and from school (26%) and time spent online (30%).
Anti-Bullying Week, together with O2, urged everyone to remember that ‘Change Starts with Us’ underlining how everyday acts like listening to young people, having a conversation, thinking about the impact of our words or stopping before clicking ‘like’ on a hurtful social media post, can all help to reduce bullying.

Children highlighted where they thought change should start. Over three-quarters (76%) of those polled saying that social media and gaming platforms should change the way they address bullying, and nearly half (48%) saying their schools could do more.

More than four in ten (44%) children said that the media and influencers had the power to reduce bullying.

Three quarters (73%) of children said that adults needed to step up to help tackle the problem, and a quarter (25%) said grownups were not good role models for online and face-to-face behaviour. Some children reported having seen grown-ups bullying each other either in the community (10%) or online (9%).

Nearly a quarter of children (23%) said their parents had not spoken to them about bullying.
Working with young people, the Anti-Bullying Alliance and O2 published a report setting out young people’s recommendations about what we can all do to address bullying. The recommendations were:

**Children and young people**

**Change starts with ...**
1. being an ‘upstander’
2. considering the impact of your words and actions
3. knowing you can make a difference
4. saying hello and being empathetic
5. focusing on what’s on the inside instead of someone’s appearance
6. including everyone

**Schools and educational settings**

**Change starts with ...**
1. listening to and involving young people in the solution
2. knowing how much bullying is going on and recording it
3. training for school staff about bullying and online bullying
4. helping pupils to understand each other when bullying does happen
5. seeing bullying as a barrier to learning and a risk to our mental health
6. ensuring all children are included in school, and that school staff have respectful and caring relationships with pupils
7. knowing about ‘hotspot’ areas of bullying where it’s more likely to happen (e.g. on the way to and from school and online)

**Parents and carers**

**Change starts with ...**
1. taking the time to talk and find out about our day
2. understanding the technology we use
3. improving relationships with our siblings
4. teaching us about empathy
5. putting yourselves in our shoes and being aware of the issues we face
Government and parliamentarians

**Change starts with ...**

1. parliamentarians acting as role models for how we treat each other
2. being able to access help when we need it
3. understanding the links between bullying and mental health
4. legislation to define bullying and requiring schools to record levels of bullying
5. knowing how much bullying is happening online and in school
6. funding for anti-bullying resources and training in schools
7. seeing the links between bullying online and face to face

Technology Companies

**Change starts with ...**

1. clarity about the behaviour that is acceptable on your platforms
2. knowing and being transparent about what type of bullying is going on
3. using new technology to tackle bullying
4. being better and more consistent when handling reports of bullying and removing harmful content
5. applying the highest possible privacy settings automatically for under 16s when they sign up, rather than expecting young people to set it themselves
6. thinking about children’s safety on your platforms at inception not when you become multi-million user platforms

Media and influencers

**Change starts with ...**

1. using your power responsibly and positively
2. thinking about the impact of what you say
3. portraying real life and not just an ideal
4. not just thinking about how many followers you have but the impact you have on them

YOU CAN READ THE FULL REPORT HERE
We’re very proud to be working with the Anti-Bullying Alliance, and to be adding our voice to the call to stamp out bullying once and for all. The report shows that bullying isn’t an isolated problem. It exists in many forms – in schools, in the community and online – and as a responsible business, we know we need to play our part in tackling it. Our own research shows that 63% of parents are worried about bullying via smartphones, and 48% don’t feel supported enough to deal with it. At O2, we continue to work hard to put resources in place to help parents and their children feel more empowered, and to have those open conversations that can help in finding a solution. Working collaboratively is the only way we’re going to tackle bullying, and we’re urging everyone from parents, young people and educators, to government, media, influencers and other tech companies to join the discussion, and make a commitment to change.

Ann Pickering, Chief HR Officer and Chief of Staff, Chair of Responsible Business Taskforce, O2

If one in ten children have reported missing school because of bullying, we clearly have a problem. To turn this around, it’s important to bear in mind that everyone has a part to play in reducing and stemming the impact of bullying.

Through the publication of our ‘Change Starts With Us’ report, young people can be a catalyst for change in the way we address bullying both face-to-face and online. We must work together to avoid the long-term impact that bullying can have on young people. Of course that means change on a national scale – for example, improving support online or conducting research – but it’s also about the everyday actions that each of us can take to help someone who is suffering because of bullying. That’s the idea behind ‘Change Starts With Us’, and we’re encouraging young and old to get involved.

Martha Evans, Director of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, part of the National Children’s Bureau

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* The data referenced in the quote from Ann Pickering comes from a separate YouGov Plc poll of 1,021 GB parents with children aged 18 or under, conducted between 25th and 29th October 2019.
We gained eight pieces of national press coverage for our poll largely focusing on the fact that children said they had missed school due to bullying. Coverage included The Daily Telegraph, Sun, The Daily Star on Sunday, The Daily Star, Yahoo, ITV News website, AOL, BT online, Telecom TV online The Daily Mirror and Daily Mail online and many pieces of local coverage.

There was also coverage in key education media and children’s websites including TES, Primary Times and FE News, and BBC Newsround.

Andy Day and Odd Socks Day featured in the Daily Express and Metro and was also featured in the Daily Star on Sunday and the Evening Standard. There was a lengthy feature about Andy and Anti-Bullying Week in Primary Times.

It makes you think about what you’re texting and how to keep safe online.

From a pupil

The Advertising Equivalent Value of Anti-Bullying Week coverage was:

£893,440

The potential reach of Anti-Bullying Week coverage was:

27,074,150
We saw significant growth in our social media campaign this year. We used Twitter, TikTok, Facebook and Instagram as our main social media sites. We used four key hashtags.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#Hashtag</th>
<th>Total impressions in millions (between Sept – Nov)</th>
<th>% increase compared to 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#AntiBullyingWeek (primary hashtag each year)</td>
<td>202.5</td>
<td>53.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#ChangeStartsWithUs</td>
<td>49.4</td>
<td>Not used last year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#OddSocks</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>20.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#OddSocksDay</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>Not monitored last year</td>
</tr>
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https://twitter.com/AFCCommunity/status/1194997968606289921
We trended on Twitter again this year for #AntiBullyingWeek, #ChangeStartsWithUs and #OddSocksDay which is a big achievement at a time of a general election.

Across Twitter, Facebook and Instagram we saw 429,877 engagements which equated to a 200% increase compared with 2018.

We saw a significant amount of activity on social media with people taking part in Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day. This included some high profile influencers, like Fern Cotton and Emma Willis.

1000s of schools used our Anti-Bullying Week school materials and took part in Odd Socks Day.
VIDEO REACH

We launched three key videos in Anti-Bullying Week all of which were made with young people and Unique Voice, a Bristol based charity.

Across all social media channels we had more than **1.2M views** of the Anti-Bullying Week videos.

1. **Primary School Anti-Bullying Week video**
2. **Secondary School Anti-Bullying Week video**
3. **Change Starts With Us message from young people**

The Anti-Bullying Week website had over **645,279 views** from the 1st September to the 30th November 2019.

We had **511 organisations** sign up as supporters of Anti-Bullying Week.

We were lucky to have the support from TikTok for a hashtag challenge to reach young people with the Change Starts With Us message. This campaign reached over **3.7 million people** on TikTok.
We released a number of school resources with the support of O2 for Anti-Bullying Week this year including. We saw an increase in the number of downloads of our schools materials and 88% of teachers we surveyed rated them as good or excellent.

**SCHOOL TOOLS**

- **Primary and secondary school pack**
  - including lesson plans, assembly plans, videos and activity ideas to help bring Anti-Bullying Week to life around the theme of Change Starts With Us

- **A school pack for Odd Socks Day**
  - that included assembly plans, a song by Andy Day called Change and activity ideas

- **A tool written by Restorative Thinking**
  - about how restorative approaches in school can help with addressing bullying

The primary school pack was downloaded almost 126,000 times compared to 2018.

The secondary school pack was downloaded over 37,000 times compared to 2018.

The Odd Socks Day School Pack was downloaded over 26,000 times compared to 2018.

We also promoted a wide range of tools, resources and events created by our members.

Our independent survey of teachers showed that 60% of those that took part in Anti-Bullying Week said they had talked about online bullying during the week (the % increased amongst old children).

91% of pupils we surveyed said they knew how to report bullying in school.

"Great resources and would highly recommend. From a teacher"

"It was really useful and informative. It’s made a big difference. From a teacher"

"They [the Anti-Bullying Week resources] were very helpful and resourceful to our school and stop bullying from happening. From a teacher"
The Impact of Anti-Bullying Week 2019

This year, we conducted an independent poll of teachers and pupils about Anti-Bullying Week. It’s given us some fascinating information about the reach of Anti-Bullying Week and how pupils and teachers feel about what it achieves.

67% of teachers and 81% of pupils agree that Anti-Bullying Week is a useful event in the school calendar.

86% of teachers and 93% of pupils agree that Anti-Bullying Week helps raise awareness of bullying.

64% of teachers and 86% of pupils agree that Anti-Bullying Week helps schools tackle bullying.

47% of teachers and 64% of pupils agree that Anti-Bullying Week helps to reduce bullying.

85% of pupils said they wanted their school to hold Anti-Bullying Week in 2020.

79% of pupils said they enjoyed taking part in Anti-Bullying Week 2019.
Made children more aware of bullying both online and in person.

From a pupil

It’s great to make all aware the importance and implications that bullying can have on children and cyber bullying too. And strategies to combat it.

From a pupil

I like it because it stops other kids being mean to each other.

From a pupil

There was more awareness of what bullying consists of for the pupils and how they can help reduce their own and others bullying behaviours.

From a teacher

It’s a great week for positive changes that desperately need to happen.

From a teacher
Thank yous

We would like to extend our thanks to our official partners for Anti-Bullying Week 2019, O2, without which we could not have made this Anti-Bullying Week happen.

And to the following organisations:

- All ABA Members and the ABA Advisory group including its chair Claude Knights
- SafeToNet for supporting Odd Socks Day this year
- Andy Day, Tamsin Skan and the Andy and the Odd Socks Day team
- The Team at Unique Voice for creating the videos for Anti-Bullying Week again this year
- Fabien Gouby for delivering our design work
- The Anti-Bullying Week School Staff Award winners and the pupils that nominated them:
  1. Primary School Winner: Mrs Vitti from Tintwistle School (Glossop, Derbyshire)
  2. Secondary School Winner: Sarah White from Newark Orchard Special School (Newark, Nottinghamshire)
- Fairfield High School and City Academy in Bristol and the young people who wrote and starred in the secondary school film
- Chester Park Junior School in Bristol and the young people who starred in the primary school film
- Restorative Thinking for writing the restorative approaches resource for schools
- Professional boxer and anti-bullying campaigner, Joe Joyce
- Young people from Young NCB, Kidscape, Henley College, the Diana Award and Raw Mentoring who worked so hard on the Change Starts With Us Report and who starred in the film
- Henry and Ryan at Lantern for developing the brand and logo for Anti-Bullying Week 209
- All staff at ABA and the National Children’s Bureau who helped make Anti-Bullying Week happen

Finally, all the staff and children who held Anti-Bullying Week in their school this year.
Anti-bullying week 2020

will be held from 16th-20th November 2020 and the theme will be announced in the Spring of 2020.

“Anti-bullying week is essential for all schools”
From a teacher