NEGATIVITY ONLINE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

1 Young people experience online negativity. This may be due to personal characteristics, as a joke or on purpose to annoy – often referred to as 'trolling'. Online negativity can impact young people's mental health and wellbeing; they need support to manage this and to understand why doing it themselves is wrong.

'Trolling' *Deliberately trying to upset or start arguments with people online by posting offensive or unkind things.*

2 Girls and LGBTQ+ young people are more likely to experience negativity online. They are more likely to be judged and shamed for their appearance, and experience sexism, sexual harassment, homophobia and transphobia.

3 Break ups are the time when many young people experience negativity online. Breaking up is emotionally difficult and this can be made worse for young people by receiving nasty comments from others, worries about nudes being shared and friends taking sides publicly online.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Do people say things online they wouldn't in person? Why do you think this is?

Have you, or your friends ever received hurtful comments from someone online?

What would you do if you saw someone else getting hateful comments online?

"lots of people will say stuff online that they would never say to someone's face"

WANT MORE INFO?

Tackling online hate and trolling
www.internetmatters.org/resources/tackling-online-hate-and-trolling

Supporting LGBTQ+ young people online
www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/supporting-lgbtq-young-people-online/

Online sexual harassment
www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/online-sexual-harassment

Personal characteristics include: *race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity.*