

## Clicks and stones: *School yard abuse* has migrated online; Adults are still catching up

Of all the forms of *bullying*, the online *variety* attracts the most attention these days. It is a big focus of the “Be Best” *initiative* launched by Melania Trump, America’s *First Lady*, to teach children the importance of social, emotional and physical health.

bullying 霸凌, 欺负

Variety 种类; 多样

initiative 新方案; 主动的, 自发的

school yard abuse 校园霸凌

Online platforms offer *bullies* ever more creative ways to *persecute* victims outside school hours. Cyber-bullying varies from private threats to cruel public comments to spreading sexually explicit material. Bullies might invite their target to a chat room or group conversation created for the *sole* purpose of *hurling abuse at* him or her.

bullies 恶霸

persecute 迫害; 骚扰

sole 唯一的, 单独的

hurl abuse at 辱骂

Bullying happens where young people spend their time --- at present, mainly Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and WhatsApp. A widely suggested “solution” is to forbid teenagers from particular platforms. But then they will migrate to another.

Most social-media sites have instructions on how to report disturbing material and block other users. But bullied teenagers are unlikely to *find solace in* any of this. A recent survey in Britain found that 70% of them thought that social-media companies do too little to prevent bullying.

Find solace in 在...中寻找慰藉

Reducing cyber-bullying through legislation is often *tricky*. The Canadian province of Nova Scotia introduced an anti-cyber-bullying *bill* after a *high-profile* teenage suicide. But the law was later *struck down* by the courts for violating *free speech*.

Bill 法案, 账单

high-profile 备受瞩目的

Free speech 言论自由

tricky 狡猾的; 棘手的

Strike down 废除; 取消

Many scholars agree that the answer to tackling cyber-bullying *lies in* educating both children and adults in digital skills. Mrs Trump has produced a *leaflet*, suggesting parents discuss with their children their online lives, about which they often know nothing. Sensible advice --- like her *injunction* to set an example of good online behavior, and to remind children that “online actions have consequences”. If only adults could take this lesson to heart.

Injunction 禁令; 命令