

Feature

A new report has revealed the alarming scale of bullying among secondary school-aged children. The finding released to coincide with Anti-Bullying Week earlier this month spell out a disturbing picture for any parent or carer. **Fiona Evans** takes a look.

Know the signs of bullying



The pain of being bullied as a child can last for years and well into adulthood.

Sadly, there is no shortage of examples to illustrate its most catastrophic consequences.

Too many young lives have already been taken by their own hands, leaving families flailing in the tide of a lifelong aftermath.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance, which covers England, defines bullying as “the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power,” noting that it can happen face-to-face or online.

A new report, published



by the alliance and O2, has revealed the appalling scale of bullying that children are experiencing on a day-to-day basis.

According to a poll of 1,013 secondary school children

aged 11 to 16 in the UK, nearly a quarter said they had been bullied once a week or more during the last six months. Roughly one child per class (three per cent) said they had experienced bullying every

day in the last six months.

The report, called ‘Change Starts With Us’, also exposed the extent of the impact of bullying on daily lives, with one in ten children (11 per cent) saying they had missed school because of it.

Many had changed their route to school and steered clear of spending time with friends to avoid being bullied. Nineteen per cent had avoided social media and online gaming because of bullying.

While many of the children who had been bullied said it happened in school, other flashpoints included their journey to and from school and time spent online.

“If one in ten children have reported missing school because of bullying, we clearly have a problem,” said

