

# CONNECTION ACTION INCLUSION

FUSE Primary is an Anti-Bullying and Online Safety Programme which emerged from online research into school bullying in DCU's Anti-Bullying Research and Resource Centre and a desire to translate this research into education and resources for primary school children.

## Aim

To provide educators, parents and students with a resource that helps them to communicate and support each other in tackling and preventing school bullying and online safety issues.

## Programme

**Training** is provided to teachers who are identified as anti-bullying champions in their schools. They receive online training and subsequent access to a suite of newly designed resources and workshops that they can deliver to their colleagues, pupils, and parents in their schools.

**Workshops** are focused on empowering pupils in primary schools to identify bullying and online safety risks and to be able to report and talk with their parents and teachers about their experiences.

## Reach

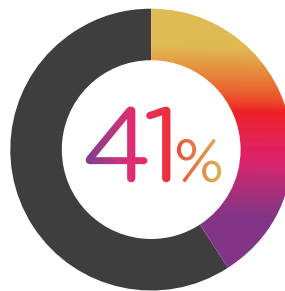
With the support of Rethink Ireland (Social Innovation Fund Ireland), the programme is currently being delivered to about **1000 children free of charge in 17 primary schools** and will be extended to **50 schools over a three-year period**.

## Rationale

Bullying, and cyberbullying among school-aged children are now major concerns for parents in Ireland. The potential negative impact of online harassment, hate and cyberbullying on a child's mental health is now recognized. This problem is growing year on year and has increased significantly during the Covid-19 pandemic as learning and social interactions move online.

## Research

Children and young people impacted by cyberbullying often experience self-doubt, isolation and anxiety as a result of the experience and often they do not tell anyone about the problem until it is too late. FUSE connects students, teachers and parents in open discussion, to tackle bullying and online safety together.



JUST UNDER HALF OF THE CHILDREN WHO SAID THEY WERE VICTIMS OF CYBERBULLYING (41%) TOLD A PARENT OR CAREGIVER.

28%

DURING IRELAND'S FIRST NATIONAL LOCKDOWN IN 2020, 28% OF 10-17 YEAR OLDS REPORTED BEING A TARGET OF CYBERBULLYING.

