



Banter
No such thing!



Banter

The dictionary defines 'banter' as-

'Playful and friendly exchange of gentle teasing remarks'.

and

'To exchange witty and enjoyable conversation with someone'.

Let's be honest from the outset, this is not the case in many UK high schools, and we even have this problem at St Joseph's.

The word is inappropriately used as just an excuse for someone to offer cheap, offensive and derogatory comments towards another person or their family.



Banter

'Do it for the bants'.

Just an opportunity for a bully or coward to intimidate, frighten, insult or provoke another person.

To say something personal and inflammatory with the intention of putting another individual down.

Insult-

'To intentionally speak or treat someone with disrespect, scorn or abuse'

'To treat another with insolence, indignity or contempt'.

Banter

Banter is when:

everyone involved understands it is banter

everyone finds it funny

everyone feels included and safe

when close friends joke together, tease each other and all enjoy it, it is not bullying

Banter is not when:

someone feels hurt or humiliated by it

someone is being made fun of

someone feels excluded

someone feels unsafe or frightened

- <https://youtu.be/zluR1gR9N08>
- 2.02 mins



Banter

Q- When do people cross the line?

Q- When does good humour become intentionally offensive or threatening?

Q- Why do people go a step too far?

Have a form discussion for 5 minutes, try and share some examples of when banter has gone wrong, or people have used banter as just an excuse to target another person.



Banter

Appearance

This is the most common 'bully banter'. They do not know anything about you and chose the obvious to poke fun.

Colour of hair, skin, eyes.

Freckles, spots, glasses.

Size of body, height, weight, shoe size.

The sad thing is that the people who do this think they are perfect and have no faults. This shows how unkind, unappreciative and shallow they are.

Q- Can you think of any more appearance banter ?

Q- Why would someone use your appearance as an opportunity to belittle you?





Banter

Insults

Comments that are meant to be **biting, degrading, derogatory, disparaging, disrespectful, hurtful, offensive, repulsive, rude, ridiculing, slighting, discourteous, insolent, uncivil.**

Personal information used against you, about your family, something you might have done wrong or a genuine mistake.

Most of the time the person using this type of banter will do it with another person present or make sure others hear, this is because they are scared on their own, jealous of your talent/abilities or intimidated by your success.



Banter

Creed, colour, culture, ethnicity or nationality

These are ignorant and dangerous 'banter bullies'; they are in their own little bubble or are influenced by others and have poor role models in their life.

They have no concept of the fantastic things we can learn, cherish or celebrate from each other.

In our own school community, we have 50 different cultures and 46 different languages. What isn't to like about this?

Banter

Online banter

In our modern technological world, some people use social media to target others.

Comments, videos, emojis, memes, pictures.

They hide behind their keyboards or phones and think they are untouchable. They might have the support of their 'gaming community'. There is a danger here of banter turning into trolling.

So, what do you do if someone is not treating you with respect? Watch the quick video.

- <https://youtu.be/GHdvxQ57zbw>

34 secs

Q- Anything else you would recommend?



Banter

Intelligence or ability

Good natured banter can turn toxic very quickly when others are jealous of other people's success.

'Swot', 'Geek', 'Dunce', 'Dumb blonde', 'You are just lucky'

'Banter bullies' don't like others who are better than them and they enjoy telling others how bad they are or how stupid they are.



Banter

Trends

Banter can be very hurtful for some because attention is drawn to economic disadvantage. In other words, comments made to those who cannot afford the latest clothes, shoes, tech items or enjoy holidays.

This becomes very personal and cannot be accepted.

- Q- What other trends can you think of?





Banter

Language

***Words can hurt,
Words can bruise,
So, think about the words
you use.***

Q- Have you ever experienced the same situation the girl finds herself in during this short video?

Q- What is wrong about how others speak to her?

- <https://youtu.be/NAwkckpkapA>

2.35 mins

Banter

Is school any different to the workplace?

No, it's not.

At school we try our very best to give you the values, qualities and skills that will serve you well in future life and to be a good citizen.

The following short video is what the company *Openreach* is saying to their workforce.

Q- What do you think of their message?

- <https://youtu.be/QgCdFAno7Gg>

5.16 mins



A group of diverse young people, including a Black man with glasses, a young woman with long curly hair, a white man, and a young woman with dark hair, are sitting together and laughing. The image is partially obscured by a large white speech bubble on the left side.

Banter

Please take care of the words you use.

Words used wisely and thoughtfully can make positive things happen, give confidence, make new friendships and build people up.

We all have one life to live, so let's live it well, let's live it in harmony with others, let's show respect, kindness and appreciation for the different things others can bring.

Watch the video below.

Listen carefully to the teacher.

*(change beer for lemonade!!)

Q- What are your golf balls, pebbles and sand?

- <https://youtu.be/SqGRnlXplx0>

3.05 mins

Banter

What do you do if you do not feel comfortable with someone's banter?

Easiest action to take is not to spend time with them, cut them out of your friendship group.

Speak to a trusted adult about your uncomfortableness.

Walk away, avoid confrontation because this is probably what they want, and this will mean you have come down to their level.

Ask them to be nice and think about the words/phrases they are using.



Banter

Some people like to give a good as they get but be careful, this could lead to conflict and making the situation worse;

'Your IQ is the same as this room's temperature!'

'You have two brain cells; one is lost, and the other is out looking for it!'

'You are as bright as a black hole and twice as dense!'

'If I gave you a penny for your thoughts, I would get change!'



Banter

'Banter bullies' also need to be very careful.

Continual targeting of another person is breaking the law and could result in prosecution and an individual getting a criminal record.

By making someone's life so unpleasant you could be breaking-

The Public Order Act 1986

Harassment Act 1997

'It pays to be nice'

Q- Look at the quote on the right, is this you?

Q- Or are you getting it wrong?

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."

- John Wesley.

Banter

The best support to avoid 'bad banter' or 'banter bullies' is from trusted family, friends or known supportive adults

Or

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/advice-and-support/if-youre-being-bullied/find-help-and-support>

<https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/bullying/>

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk>

