

TEXT 14  
11/10/10

### TEST 5

When bullying in schools was last examined in 1990, surveys showed that 1.5 million children were affected. Today that number is even higher. In a recent survey, 43% of six and seven-year-olds said they had been bullied, that is, they had been **smacked** in the face, kicked or pushed by other children. Bullies pick on people who are shy, fat, too clever or simply the "**wrong** colour".

Experts on bullying warn that if a child is a victim of bullying he or she can suffer from lack of confidence and become **depressed** over a long period of time. To deal with the problem of bullying more effectively, teachers, parents and pupils have been asked to find out who the bullies are in their schools. Moreover, a psychologist has produced a booklet with the title "Bullying, do not suffer in silence." Undoubtedly, many children benefit from these measures, but along with the success stories there are failures. Schools often do not try as hard as they can to overcome the problem and in some schools it is ignored altogether.

Every day, a six-year-old George was kicked and pushed by a boy in his class. After his mother complained to the headmaster, she thought that action had been taken. In fact, nothing was done and the bullying continued. For fear of worrying his mother further, the boy kept the problem to himself, becoming quiet and unwilling to talk. Then a friend of the family came to stay. While playing with George, she noticed bruises and cuts on his legs. When she questioned George, he admitted being kicked in quiet corners. When further complaints did no good, his mother **removed** him and sent him to a school which had a successful anti-bullying programme. Within ten days, George became a new person. "When I next visited them," remarked the same family friend, "I heard loud singing from his bedroom."

Parents or teachers acting on their own have very little chance of successfully helping victims since they need the support of the whole school, and especially the support of pupils. So, the pupils themselves can play an extremely important role by being encouraged to help their schoolmates who are victims of bullying.

#### a. Choose the correct answer.

1. Since the phenomenon was last examined, bullying has
  - a. decreased
  - b. increased
  - c. remained at the same level
  - d. disappeared
2. It is important that bullying should be stopped because
  - a. it can cause permanent physical damage
  - b. the psychological effects on children may be long-lasting
  - c. it is more difficult to control
  - d. bullies might become too confident.