

## **Bullying of Pupils at Primary and Secondary Schools and its Prevention in the School Environment in the Slovak Republic**

### **Abstract**

This paper deals with bullying as a significant socio-pathological phenomenon in school surroundings. It pays special attention to the prevention of bullying at primary and secondary schools. The paper also presents some selected results of research conducted with the teachers of primary and secondary schools in the Central Slovakia Region.

*Key words: bullying, victim, aggressor, prevention, forms of prevention, prevention in the school environment*

Bullying as a form of aggressive behaviour is currently becoming a serious educational and social problem, and due to its danger, an increasingly frequent subject of interest for professionals and the lay public. It is alarming that the age of bullying onset is decreasing. The Methodological Instructions of the Slovak Ministry of Education No. 7/2006-R state on the prevention and the solution of bullying the pupils at schools and school facilities that “at present, bullying is becoming a serious problem; it occurs at schools and school facilities, and constant attention should be paid to it with respect to both preventive and punitive actions.”

Similarly, the authors S. Kariková and M. Šimegová (2009, p. 160) emphasise that “we consider the prevention of bullying, based on the awareness, early revealing and effective solution of it, to be an urgent task in today’s society.”

Bullying even occurs under the conditions of primary schools. The results of the research of M. Bieliková and M. Bošňáková (2006, p. 28) at primary schools in Slovakia indicate that 9.3% of pupils at primary schools have experienced bullying.