

Most kids picked on by bullies

MORE than half of kids have been bullied by another child.

Research of 1,000 aged nine to 16 and their parents revealed 54% have been targeted.

Eight in 10 of those have faced taunts, name-calling and abuse from their peers while at school.

Alex Holmes, of The Diana Award that commissioned the research, said: "We want to help schools, parents, guardians and young people speak out and support each other."

I'm scared that I will miss a gem

FAIR HEARING: Steve listens to all new tracks



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HOST STILL KEEPING EAR TO THE GROUND

DJ STEVE Lamacq gets sent a lot of records to listen to. Up-and-coming bands are desperate to hear what he thinks of their demos.

And he hates to let them down. "Last Monday alone, I was sent 43 singles," he tells me. "Across a week, it could be up to 200."

"If you do it properly, that's about 10 hours of listening."

By "doing it properly" Steve means hearing each track from start to finish, so he can then share the best with his listeners.

"If something's not your cup of tea, you probably don't get to the end," he admits.

Kicking off tonight at midnight, BBC 6 Music launches New Music Fix Friday, where Steve - plus Lauren Laverne, Mary Anne Hobbs and Tom Ravenscroft - will play what's been grabbing their attention.

Refreshing

And while it's obviously a huge privilege - I mean, who wouldn't kill for a job like that? - it's also quite a responsibility. Musicians' very futures are at stake here. That, and of course the 6 Music presenters' credibility.

"John Peel used to say, when asked why he spent endless hours listening to demos, that it was absolute insecurity on his part," says Steve. "The fear he might miss something."

"I feel the same. What if you listen to 99 out of 100 demos and the one you didn't listen to is the one that turns out to be the Arctic Monkeys?"

What's refreshing about chatting

THE MIKE WARD INTERVIEW



with Steve Lamacq is he's as infectiously passionate now, at 56, as when he started out on Radio 1 in the 80s.

"I'm still the same daft music fan," he agrees. "A part of me has never got older. The room I'm sitting in right now is like a teenager's bedroom - records, magazines, T-shirts, old cassettes, shelves of CDs."

"The worst thing would be to wake up one day and start behaving like a grown-up."

Steve's been hosting 6 Music's 4-7pm weekday slot for a remarkable 16 years ("That's a long time - I must be almost up there with Ken Bruce and Steve Wright"). So he's well tuned in to what his listeners enjoy - maybe something from the 80s they grew up with, an obscure track from the 90s, plenty of the here and now.

"It's like making them a mixtape every day," he says.

He also knows they'd hate him to be cool. Just as well. "I don't know when I realised I'd never be cool, Mike," he says, "but I'm certainly aware of it now - and I quite like it."

"People enjoy the fact I'm just, you know, a slightly awkward man-boy who loves big old guitar riffs and the bass lines of dance songs."

"It's the music I take seriously - not myself."