



Cyber-Bullying Policy

September 2019

INCLUSION AND SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT:

We are committed to creating futures for all in a welcoming and supportive learning environment, in which all pupils feel valued and challenged to be resilient thinkers, active learners with transferable skills and have an appetite for world learning. In the Inspire Partnership all pupils are valued, inspired and respected within our happy, welcoming family.

We set high expectations for all our pupils. Practitioners give every pupil the opportunity to experience success in their learning, by providing a relevant and challenging curriculum with an emphasis on personalised learning.

All children have unique experiences to share. Across the Partnership we celebrate this diversity by valuing the contribution of all pupils and providing a learning environment that encourages interdependence.

This policy has been written in line with UNICEF Children's Rights convention. To promote Article 8: 'Every child has a right to an identity' and Article 16: 'Every child has a right to privacy' through e-safety.

Our Partnership is committed to safeguarding and promoting welfare of children and expects staff to share this commitment.

Aims

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment where children can learn in a secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a listening and a telling community – anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff and know that the disclosure will be taken seriously.

The School's Discipline and Behaviour Policy promotes this environment by identifying the school rules and the procedures for enforcing them, encouraging self-discipline good behaviour and respect for others.

Objectives

- To ensure staff, children and parents know what cyber-bullying is.
- To put in place systems to prevent cyber-bullying.
- To ensure staff, children and parents know how to report cyber-bullying

Refer to Appendix I for definition of cyber-bullying and types.

Links to other policies

Please refer to the anti-bullying policy for definitions of bullying, procedures and consequences etc. Also see the acceptable use policies and e-safety policy.

Planning

Ensure mention is made of cyber-bullying especially in lessons where children use internet based technology, where they can leave comments or send messages (e.g. blogging, email etc). This must be shown on the relevant plans in the introduction. This links to PSHE/ESafety document which highlights areas of self-identity and online relationships that should be covered both in PSHE and in computing lessons. These should be covered in assemblies, lessons or starters in either PSHE or Computing.

Introduce children to <http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/kids/index.html> which they can investigate further at home. See Appendix 3 – What can you do as a student?

Cross Curricular Links

Cyber-bullying should be mentioned during lessons on bullying in PSHE. It should be included during Friendship (anti-bullying) week. There should be an assembly once a term on e-safety/cyber-bullying. There is an e-safety leader, who helps promote e-safety across the school through training of a group of pupils.

Staff Responsibilities

1. Keep the profile of Anti-bullying high on the school agenda and promoting friendship, respect and tolerance, through assemblies and regular discussion in class.
2. Continue to develop anti-bullying education in the curriculum through PSHE Education.
3. Maintain Healthy School Status as anti-bullying is a major part of the core theme of Emotional health and Wellbeing.
4. We will liaise with other organisations to share good practice, information and resources.
5. Teachers to ensure included on computing planning in relevant units.

There will be consequences for bullying behaviour. The consequences will vary according to the severity of the incident but all incidents of bullying will be treated seriously by Woodside Primary and Children's Centre School.

All incidences must be reported immediately to the lead safeguarding officer.

Communication with Parents/Carers

As a school we have a responsibility to provide Parents with relevant information on how to keep their children safe and how to report cyber-bullying.

These are laid out in Appendix 2 – What can you do as a parent? and should be made available on the school website. They could also be referred to websites such as

http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/what_is_cyberbullying_exactly.html

Appendix I – Definitions and Types of Cyber Bullying

(Key national document: 'Cyber-bullying – Safe to Learn: Embedding Anti-bullying work in schools' DCSF-00658-2007)

Cyber-bullying is bullying through the use of communication technology like mobile phone text messages, e-mails or websites. This can take many forms, for example:

- Sending threatening or abusive text messages or e-mails, personally or anonymously,
- Making insulting comments about someone on a website, social networking site (e.g: MySpace) or online diary blog.

Virtual Bullying

With more and more of us using email and mobile phones, bullying does not have to happen in person. Silent phone calls or abusive texts or emails can be just as distressing as being bullied face-to-face.

Cyber-Bullying

This is sending or posting harmful or cruel text or images using the Internet or other digital communication devices.

Research from the University of London identifies seven categories of Cyber-bullying:

Text message bullying - involves sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort.

Picture/video-clip bullying via mobile phone cameras - is used to make the person being bullied feel threatened or embarrassed, with images usually sent to other people. 'Happy slapping' involves filming and sharing physical attacks.

Phone call bullying via mobile phone - uses silent calls or abusive messages. Sometimes the bullied person's phone is stolen and used to harass others, who then think the phone owner is responsible. As with all mobile phone bullying, the perpetrators often disguise their numbers, sometimes using someone else's phone to avoid being identified.

Email bullying - Uses email to send bullying or threatening messages, often using a pseudonym for anonymity or using someone else's name to pin the blame on them.

Chat room bullying - Involves sending menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room.

Bullying through instant messaging (IM) - is an Internet-based form of bullying where children and young people are sent unpleasant messages as they conduct real-time conversations online (i.e. MSN, Bebo, etc.).

Bullying via websites - includes the use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal polling sites. There has also been a significant increase in social networking sites for young people, which can provide new opportunities for cyber-bullying.

Appendix 2 – What can you do as a parent?

Don't wait for something to happen before you act. Make sure your child understands how to use these technologies safely and knows about the risks and consequences of misusing them.

- Make sure they know what to do if they or someone they know are being cyber-bullied.
- Advise the child not to respond to the message.
- Secure and preserve any evidence.
- Encourage your child to talk to you if they have any problems with cyber-bullying. If they do have a problem, contact the school, the mobile network or the Internet Service Provider (ISP) to do something about it.
- Parental control software can limit who your child sends emails to and who he or she receives them from. It can also block access to some chat rooms.
- Moderated chat rooms are supervised by trained adults. Your ISP will tell you whether they provide moderated chat services.
- Make it your business to know what your child is doing online and who your child's online friends are.
- Consider informing the police depending on the severity or repetitious nature of the offence.
- Inform the LA E-Safety officer.

It is important you, as parents and carers, ensure that your children are engaged in safe and responsible online behaviour. Some suggestions for you to stay involved are:

- Keep the computer in a public place in the house. Periodically check on what your child is doing.
- Discuss the kinds of Internet activities your child enjoys.
- Select appropriate sites for children to go on that are aged related.
- Be up front with your child that you will periodically investigate the files on the computer, the browser history files, and your child's public online activities.
- Search for your child's name online, look at his or her profiles and postings on teen community sites, review web pages or blogs.
- Tell your child that you may review his or her private communication activities if you have reason to believe you will find unsafe or irresponsible behaviour.
- Watch out for secretive behaviour as you approach the computer, such as rapidly switching screens, and for attempts to hide online behaviour, such as an empty history file.

Appendix 3 – What can you do as a student?

If you are being bullied, remember bullying is never your fault. It can be stopped and it can usually be traced.

- Don't ignore the bullying. Tell someone you trust, such as a teacher or parent, or call an advice line.
- Try to keep calm. If you are frightened, try to show it as little as possible. Don't get angry, it will only make the person bullying you more likely to continue.

There is plenty of online advice on how to react to cyber-bullying. For example, <http://www.wiredsafety.com/> has some useful tips:

Text/Video Messaging

- You can turn off incoming messages for a couple of days.
- If bullying persists you can change your phone number (ask your Mobile service provider).
- Do not reply to abusive or worrying text or video messages - your Mobile service provider will have a number for you to ring or text to report phone bullying. Visit their website for details.

Email

- Never reply to unpleasant or unwanted emails.
- Don't accept emails or open files from people you do not know.
- Ask an adult to contact the sender's ISP by writing abuse@ and then the host, e.g. abuse@hotmail.com.

Web

If malicious or threatening comments are posted on an Internet site about a pupil

- If the bullying is on VLE, tell a teacher or parent, just as you would if the bullying was face-to-face.
- Parents and/ or School to inform and request the comments are removed if the site is administered externally.
- Here are the steps we will take as a school:
 - Secure and preserve any evidence
 - Send all the evidence to CEOP at www.ceop.police.uk/contact-us
 - Endeavour to trace the origin and inform police as appropriate
 - Inform LA E-Safety officer

Chat Room & Instant Messaging

- Never give out your name, address, phone number, school name or password online. It's a good idea to use a nickname. Do not give out photos of yourself either.
- Do not accept emails or open files from people you do not know.
- Remember it might not just be people your own age in a chat room.
- Stick to public areas in chat rooms and get out if you feel uncomfortable.
- Use the report facility on the website if available.
- Tell your parents or carers if you feel uncomfortable or worried about anything that happens in a chat room.
- Think carefully about what you write - don't leave yourself open to bullying.

Five Steps to Safety

1. Respect other people - online and off.
2. Do not spread rumours about people or share their secrets, including phone numbers and passwords.
3. If someone insults you online or by phone, stay calm – and ignore them, but tell someone you trust.
4. ‘Do as you would be done by’! Think how you would feel if you were bullied.
5. You are responsible for your own behaviour -make sure you don't distress other people or cause them to be bullied by someone else.

Not reporting a bullying incident allows the bully to continue with their bullying behaviour. This is not good for the bully, who needs help in order to change their antisocial behaviour, or for those who are the victims or those who witness such events.

There will be consequences for bullying behaviour. The consequences will vary according to the severity of the incident but all incidents of bullying will be treated seriously.

Remember:

Tell an adult!