



Anti Cyber-Bullying Policy

Policy Agreed:

Head Teacher: Mrs Bev Theobald

Date: April 2019

Chair of Governors: Mrs Glynis Tucker

Date: April 2019

Mulbarton Primary School recognises that technology plays an important and positive role in everyone's lives, both educationally and socially. It is committed to helping all members of the school community to understand both the benefits and the risks, and to equip children with the knowledge and skills to be able to use technology safely and responsibly.

Aims:

The aims of this policy are to ensure that:

- We safeguard the pupils in the real and virtual world
- Pupils, staff and parents are educated to understand what cyberbullying is and what its consequences can be
- Knowledge, policies and procedures are in place to prevent incidents of cyberbullying in school or within the school community.
- We have effective measures to deal effectively with cases of cyberbullying
- We monitor the effectiveness of prevention measures

What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying may be defined in the following terms:

'Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others.'

(Mr Bill Belsey creator of website cyberbullying.org)

Cyberbullying can involve social networking sites, emails and mobile phones used for SMS messages and as cameras.

In addition:

- It can be used to carry out all the different types of bullying; an extension of face-to-face bullying
- It can also go further in that it can invade home/personal space and can involve a greater number of people
- It can take place across age groups and school staff and other adults can be targeted
- It can draw bystanders into being accessories
- It includes: threats and intimidation; harassment or 'cyberstalking'; vilification/defamation; exclusion or peer rejection
- Impersonation; unauthorised publication of private information or images and manipulation
- It can be an illegal act.

Preventing cyberbullying

Understanding and discussion

- Staff will receive training in identifying cyberbullying and understanding their responsibilities in developing e-safety.
- It is desirable that the pupils will be involved in a response to cyberbullying. They will have a voice through house circle times
- Pupils will be educated about cyberbullying through a variety of means: eg: assemblies, anti-bullying week, year group topics, house circle times.
- Pupils will sign an Acceptable Use policy before they are allowed to use school computer equipment and internet in school and parents will be encouraged to discuss its contents with their children
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on e-safety and cyberbully via email and the school website

Policies and procedures

- Ensure regular review and update of existing policies to include cyberbullying where appropriate
- Mulbarton Primary School will keep records of all cyberbullying incidents
- Mulbarton Primary School will publicise rules and sanctions effectively
- Sait.eduLTD will use filtering, firewall, anti-spyware, anti-virus software and secure connections to safeguard the pupils.

Promoting the positive use of technology

Mulbarton Primary School will:

- Make positive use of technology across the curriculum
- Use training opportunities to help staff develop their practice creatively and support pupils in safe and responsible use
- Ensure all staff and children understand the importance of password security and the need to log out of accounts.

Making reporting easier

- Ensure staff can recognise the non-verbal signs and indications of cyberbullying with regular safeguarding training
- Publicise and promote the message that asking for help is the right thing to do and shows strength and good judgement
- Publicise to all members of the school community the ways in which cyberbullying can be reported
- Provide information for all pupils including reassurances about 'whistleblowing' and the appropriate way of informing appropriate staff or parents about the incidents they have witnessed

- Provide information on external reporting routes eg: mobile phone company, internet service provider, Childline

Responding to cyberbullying

Most cases of cyberbullying will be dealt with through the school's existing Anti-Bullying policy and this must remain the framework within which incidents of bullying are reported. However, some features of cyberbullying differ from other forms of bullying and may prompt a particular response.

The key differences are:

- Impact: the scale and scope of cyberbullying can be greater than other forms of bullying
- Targets and perpetrators: the people involved may have a different profile to traditional bullies and their targets
- Location: the 24/7 and 'anywhere' nature of cyberbullying
- Anonymity: the person being bullied will not always know who is bullying them
- Intent: some pupils may not be aware that what they are doing is bullying
- Evidence: unlike other forms of bullying, the target of the bullying will have evidence of its occurrence
- It is possible that a member of staff may be a victim and these responses apply to them too

Support for the person being bullied

- Offer emotional support; reassure them that they have done the right thing in telling someone
- Advise the person not to retaliate or reply. Instead, keep the evidence and take it to their parent or a member of staff
- Advise the person to consider what information they have in the public domain
- Unless the victim sees it as a punishment, they may be advised to change eg: their mobile phone number
- If hurtful or embarrassing content is being distributed, try to get it removed. If the person who posted it is known, ensure they understand why it is wrong and ask them to remove it. Alternatively, contact the host provider and make a report to get the content taken down
- In some cases, the person being bullied may be able to block the person bullying them from their sites and services

Investigation

- The safeguarding of the child is paramount and staff should investigate in accordance with the Mulbarton Primary School Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.
- All cases will be referred to and logged by the head teacher

- Interviews will be held in accordance with the Mulbarton Primary School Anti-Bullying policy
- Staff, pupils and parents should be advised to preserve evidence and record of abuse. eg: save phone messages, record and save and print messenger conversations, screenshot
- If images are involved, refer to DSL who may involve the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) or police if they are deemed illegal
- Identify the bully
- Any allegations against staff should be handled as per other allegations – following guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education. July 2015
- Confiscate device if appropriate

Working with the bully and applying sanctions

The aim of the sanctions will be:

- To help the person harmed to feel safe again and be assured that the bullying will stop
- To hold the perpetrator to account, getting them to recognise the harm caused and deter them from repeating the behaviour
- To demonstrate to the school community that cyberbullying is unacceptable and the school has effective ways of dealing with it, so deterring others from behaving similarly
- The outcome must include helping the bully to recognise the consequences of their actions and providing support to enable the behaviour and attitude of the bully to change
- A key part of the sanctions may well involve ensuring that the pupil deletes files

Legal duties and powers

- The school has a duty to protect all its members and provide a safe, healthy environment
- School staff may request a pupil to reveal a message or other phone content and may confiscate a phone. Please refer to Mulbarton Primary School Behaviour policy for guidance on searching pupils.
- Some cyberbullying activities could be criminal offences under a range of different laws including Protection From Harassment Act 1997

For further information, please refer to the Mulbarton Primary School Anti-Bullying policy, Acceptable Use Agreement and Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

Next review: April 2020.

