

TITLE: ANTI CYBER BULYING POLICY

MODEL POLICY STATEMENT

This is **not** a Local Authority model policy

Local changes **have / have not** been made to the model policy by the College (not applicable)

The model policy used is (not applicable)

Policy Owner:	Vice Principal	Review period:	Bi- Annual
Last Review:		Approving Committee:	Curriculum 19 March 2014
Next Review:	Spring Term 2016	Latest FGB adoption:	23 April 2014

IMPACT OF THIS POLICY

To help parents, teachers and student peers to act responsibly when using social media and ICT communications, and to be aware of the consequences or potential consequences of cyber abuse.

To reduce incidents of bullying through the use of ict and social media, as monitored through the school's incident reporting system.

Anti Cyber Bullying Policy for Parents and Students

Information for Parents & Students

Improving the life chances of all of our students

Definition

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.

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.

College Advice for Parents

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.

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. It is important that parents and carers ensure that their children are engaged in safe and responsible online behaviour. Some suggestions for parents 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.

Be actively involved with your Childs use of the internet

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.

College Advice for Students

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,

www.kidscape.org

www.wiredsafety.org

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Society (CEOP) – there is a link to CEOP from the parents section of the school website:

College site – parents – parent communications – useful websites- CEOP

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)

Tips from these Sites

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, eg. abuse@hotmail.com.

Web

If the bullying is on the school website, tell a teacher or parent, just as you would if the bullying was face-to-face.

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.
- 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.

Parents

- 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.

What can you do as a student?

Consequences

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.

Why should we report bullying incidents?

Sometimes students do not want to report bullying incidents because they are frightened that this will make the situation worse. Our school survey showed that this is not normally the case.

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. Students can report incidents in school by talking to their Tutor or Head of Year or by using email. Any member of staff will be happy to help. Or contact the ABA email. (Anti-bullying Ambassadors)

Top Tips

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

Steps to Safety

Once you have reported the bullying incident in school this is what will happen:

1. **A member of staff will talk to you** the same day and will go through your statement if one has been made at home, or will take a statement.
2. **The incident will be logged** and your Head of Year, if they are not already dealing with the incident, will be informed.
3. **An investigation will take place.** This will usually take the form of your Head of Year talking separately to the bully/bullies and to any witnesses.
4. **Action will be taken.** It is likely that school staff and others will use system that looks at *the behaviour* of the students. The approach used for such incidents is most likely to follow 'no blame'* guidance because this has been found the most successful method of dealing with bullying incidents.

*If it seems appropriate, you and the bully may meet with your Tutor or Head of Year to discuss what has been happening and to agree a way forward. The school may organise a conference involving all parties. The Vice Principal, or Behaviour Intervention Co-ordinator could chair such a conference. Some incidents may warrant the intervention of the school Police Liaison Officer who might organise a more formal 'Restorative Justice' conference.