

INTRODUCTION

Pupils agree to adhere to the Pupils' Acceptable User Policy and breaches of this agreement may result in pupils being temporarily banned from using the internet.

DEFINITION

“Cyberbullying is the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else.”

Cyberbullying can have a serious impact because of a number of factors including:

- Invasion of personal space;
- The anonymity (at least initially) of the bully;
- The ability to broadcast upsetting messages and images rapidly to a potentially huge audience and to continue to do so repeatedly over a long period of time.

FORMS OF CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying may take different forms:

Threats and intimidation via electronic means;

Harassment or ‘cyberstalking’;

Sexting;

Vilification / defamation;

- Setting up website pages to invite others to post derogatory comment about a pupil;
- The sending of insulting and vicious text messages;
- Exclusion or peer rejection;
- Impersonation;
- Unauthorized publication of private information or images (including ‘happy slapping’);
- The posting of fake and/or obscene photographs of the victim on a social networking site;
- Hacking into social networking sites and removing and circulating material which may embarrassing or personal;
- Manipulation;
- “Chatting” on line e.g. through Social Network/Gaming Sites etc.

Whilst some cyberbullying is clearly deliberate and aggressive, it must be recognised that some incidents of cyberbullying may be unintentional and the result of simply not thinking about the consequences.

PREVENTING CYBERBULLYING

Members of the TAMOS Education community will understand and discuss cyberbullying through:

- The sharing of the definition of cyberbullying;
- The discussion of cyberbullying and its forms;
- The learning of our responsibilities in the use of ICT, and the sanctions for its misuse;



- Acceptable Use of ICT Policy;
- Seminars.

Policies and Practice

- Annual reviews will be made of our strategies to tackle Cyberbully and the Acceptable Use of ICT Policy;
- Records will be made of cyberbullying incidents the safeguarding lead;
- Pupils will be encouraged to report incidents of cyberbullying;
- The promotion of the positive use of technology will be encouraged;
- The exploration of safer ways of using technology will be carried out.

The prevention of cyberbullying will be promoted through discussion and student activities around what cyberbullying is and how it differs from other forms of bullying. TAMOS Education reserves the right to monitor pupils' use of the internet on a routine basis and to examine mobile phones where there is reason to suspect abuse.

The misuse of technology will be subject to the school's disciplinary policy and will be considered a serious offence. Pupils will be held personally responsible for all material that they have placed on a web site and for all material that appears on a web site of which they are an account holder. Misconduct of this kind outside of school will be liable to school discipline if the welfare of other pupils or the culture or reputation of the school is placed at risk and sanctions may include confiscation of mobile phones or restrictions on the use of the internet.

Education

Education and discussion around the responsible use of technologies and e-safety are key to preventing cyberbullying and helping children and young people deal confidently with any problems that might arise, whether in or out of school. The school will publicise progress and cyberbullying prevention activities to the whole-school community.

Members of the school community will be encouraged to follow the following advice which is displayed throughout the school.

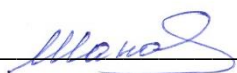
- Always respect others - be careful what you say on line and what images you send;
- Think before you send - whatever you send can be made public very quickly and could stay online forever;
- Think before you post;
- Treat your password like your toothbrush - keep it to yourself;
- Only give your mobile number or personal website address to trusted friends;
- Block the bully - learn how to block or report someone who is behaving badly;
- Don't retaliate or reply!
- Save the evidence - learn how to keep records of offending messages, pictures or online conversations.
- Make sure you tell an adult you trust;
- If you see cyberbullying going on, support the victim and report the bullying. How would you feel if no one stood up for you?

RESPONDING TO CYBERBULLYING

The person being bullied should keep examples of texts or emails received to aid an investigation. To contain the spread of cyberbullying consideration must be given to -

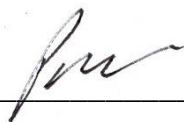


General Director



Lydia Shapovalova

School governor and Cambridge Director



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