Introduction

All parents, teachers, staff and pupils agree to adhere to the Pupils' Acceptable User Policy and breeches 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 include but are not limited to:
- Harassment or 'cyberstalking';
- Sexting;
- Vilification or 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.
  - Sending, disguising or sending messages through social media disguised as someone else.

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.
- Teacher training

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 by 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, training, seminars and student activities around the concept cyberbullying and how it differs from other forms of bullying.

In order to prevent cyberbullying 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 or banning 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 -

- Contact the service provider or host (e.g. the social networking site);
- Confiscate phones/laptops/pads.

Members of the school community will be advised on steps they can take to avoid recurrence. This will include:

- Not to retaliate, engage or reply to a cyberbully;
- Provide with appropriate contact details of service providers;

- An awareness of changing contact details, blocking contacts, or leaving a chatroom.

All allegations of bullying will be taken seriously.

Working with the bully and TAMOS Education punishment policy

Steps should be taken to change their attitude and behaviour as well as ensuring access to any support that is required. The following factors should be considered when determining the appropriate sanctions:

- The impact on the victim: was the bully acting anonymously?
- Was the material widely circulated and humiliating?
- How difficult was controlling the spread of the material?
- The motivation of the bully: was the incident unintentional or retaliation to bullying behaviour from others?
- Is the bully responsible for repeated incidents?
- Did the bully cause offence incidentally without premeditation and was unaware of the effect?
- Does the bully understand the incident and show regret for their actions?

Technology-specific sanctions for students engaged in cyberbullying behaviour could include limiting internet access for a period of time or removing the right to bring a mobile phone into school. Professional judgment will be used in choosing from a range of strategies to remind individuals and groups of their responsibility to prevent bullying and help deal with it if it happens. Parents of both the aggrieved and the perpetrator (where known) will be informed so that the process of restorative justice can be implemented at an early stage. External agencies will be involved when this is deemed appropriate especially where there has been a breach of criminal law.

Recording incidents

All incidents of cyberbullying will be recorded by the pupils safeguarding lead. The same process for recording any other form of bullying will be followed as per the Anti-Bullying Policy.

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