

Haytor View Community Primary School & Nursery

Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy 2024-25

Learning together - enjoying success - aiming high - celebrating difference – enriching community



Rationale

This school believes that all people in our community have the right to teach and learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. We believe that every individual in school has a duty to report an incident of bullying whether it happens to themselves or to another person.

Safe use of the internet, texting, social networking etc falls within the responsibility of parents as part of Child Protection, therefore we expect parents to ensure their children are not exposed to harm or placed in the position of taking on the role of perpetrator, as a result of inappropriate access to cyber communication. Children are not sufficiently able to manage their own safety and well being when accessing cyber communication, it is the role of parents to decide when their children can access cyber communication and what checks the parent will put in place to ensure their child's safety.

Parents have a duty of care in order to support children in safely using the internet, text messaging and other forms of communication. An important part of the duty of care of parents includes being aware of the cyber activities their children are engaged with.

What is Cyber Bullying?

Online Bullying, sometimes referred to as Cyber Bullying, is the use of technology like mobile phones, instant messaging applications, e-mail, chat rooms (including within games) or social networking sites to harass, threaten or intimidate someone. A key concern is the accessibility of connected technology has grown leading to the phenomenon of people being continuously 'available' to receive messages and so on in day to day activity which is open to abuse by some individuals.

Bullying is usually repeated, it is intended to hurt the victim emotionally / physically, it can be verbal, in writing or images, physically or through social isolation.

Cyber bullying is the use of ICT to deliberately upset or hurt someone, it can be used to carry out all the different forms of bullying and is an extension of face to face bullying.

Cyberbullying can include intimidation, name calling, threats, defamation, peer exclusion. It can be the publication of unauthorised images, messages intended as jokes which have a harmful impact. Cyberbullying includes the harassment of others.

Cyberbullying can take place inside school, at home or the wider community.

There are many types of cyber-bullying. Although there may be some of which we are unaware, here are the more common:

1. Text messages —that are threatening or cause discomfort - also included here is "Bluejacking" (the sending of anonymous text messages over short distances using "Bluetooth" wireless technology);
2. Picture/video-clips via mobile phone cameras - images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed;
3. Mobile phone calls — silent calls or abusive messages; or stealing the victim's phone and using it to harass others, to make them believe the victim is responsible;
4. Emails — threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else's name;
5. Chatroom bullying — menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in web-based Chatroom;
6. Instant messaging (IM) — unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real-time conversations online;
7. Bullying via websites — use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal.
8. Blogs - Unpleasant or untrue information posted to blogs, personal websites and social networking sites (e.g. Facebook). At Haytor View Community Primary School, we take this bullying as seriously as all other types of bullying and, therefore, will deal with each situation individually as detailed in our anti-bullying policy.

Technology can allow the user to bully anonymously or from an unknown location, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Cyber-bullying leaves no physical scars so it is, perhaps, less evident to a parent or teacher, but it is highly intrusive and the hurt it causes can be very severe.

Young people are particularly adept at adapting to new technology, an area that can seem a closed world to adults. For example, the numerous acronyms used by young people in chat rooms and in text messages (POS - Parents Over Shoulder, TUL – Tell You Later) make it difficult for adults to recognise potential threats.

At Haytor View Community Primary School, pupils are taught how to:

- Understand how to use these technologies safely and know about the risks and consequences of misusing them.
- Know what to do if they or someone they know are being cyber bullied.
- Report any problems with cyber bullying. If they do have a problem, they can talk to the school, parents, the police, the mobile network (for phone) or the Internet Service Provider (ISP) to do something about it.
- Parents of children will sign an Acceptable Use Policy before they are allowed to use school computer equipment and the internet in school and parents will be asked to confirm that they have discussed its contents with their children;
- There is a class acceptable user agreement in each classroom, which the children are supported in understanding regarding their safe and appropriate use of the internet;

Parents will be provided with information and advice on E-Safety and Cyber bullying via literature, newsletter, and information on the school's website.

Haytor View Community Primary School offers support for parents and pupils if cyber bullying occurs by: assessing the harm caused, identifying those involved, taking steps to repair harm and to prevent recurrence.

Children are provided with a clear message:

- If you're being bullied by phone or the Internet 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.
- Don't give out your personal details online - if you're in a chatroom, watch what you say about where you live, the school you go to, your email address etc. All these things can help someone who wants to harm you build up a picture about you.
- Keep and save any bullying emails, text messages or images. Then you can show them to a parent or teacher as evidence.
- If you can, make a note of the time and date bullying messages or images were sent, and note any details about the sender.
- There's plenty of online advice on how to react to cyber bullying. For example, www.kidscape.org have some useful tips as does the NSPCC.

If school become aware of children's inappropriate access to cyber communication:

At Haytor View Community Primary School we take the inappropriate use of cyber communication seriously. Each situation is dealt with individually, referencing the Local Authority's Child Protection Policy and the duty of care parents have towards the safety of their children, including the use of cyber communication. We will also refer to our Cyber and Anti Bullying Policies.

If there are reports of children inappropriately accessing or using cyber communication, we will arrange to meet with individual parents of children who have been engaged in cyber related activities, as part of our Safeguarding duty of care to each child. As part of this discussion we will be seeking parents' response to their child's access to cyber communication tools.

In dealing with children's inappropriate access to cyber communication we will consider:

- Can the matter be addressed between the parents and child;
- Do social care need to be engaged;
- Do the police need to be informed.

If Cyberbullying is Reported:

- The child is advised to not respond;
- The child is advised not to delete the material;

- The relevant policies are referred to including: E-Safety, Anti-bullying, Acceptable User Agreement;
- Consider appropriate measures;
- Consider informing the police dependent on the nature of incident;

If malicious posts or threats are made against pupils or teachers:

- Secure any evidence;
- Speak with the parents of the children involved;
- Considering appropriate measures;
- Consider informing the police dependent on the nature of incident;
- Request comments to be removed from the site;

Reporting

Issues of Cyber Bullying are reported in the same way as the Anti Bullying Policy.

Dealing with incidents of Cyber Bullying

- Incidents will usually be dealt with via the school's anti bullying policy;
- Cyber bullying may include different aspects to other forms of bullying, such as impact, scope of bullying, location, time, anonymity of perpetrator;

Support for the Victim

The feelings of the victim are central, support for the victim will be tailored to reflect circumstances, this might include:

- Emotional support: reassurance that it was right to report the incident;
- Emotional support: That they haven't done anything wrong;
- Emotional support: Advice not to retaliate or reply to the perpetrator;
- Advice: On how to prevent further instances;
- Advice: On how the individual can be blocked from the individual's devices;

In all situations we will seek to work with the parent in order to support the victim. The aim is to ensure the victim feels safe.

Support for the Perpetrator

- Work with the perpetrator in determining actions;
- Helping the victim in feeling safe through assurances that the bullying will stop;
- Ensuring the perpetrator recognises the harm they have caused;
- Get assurance that the behaviour will not be repeated;
- Support to recognise the consequences of their actions;
- Facilitate change in their attitude and behaviour;
- Understand their accountability for their actions;
- Support their understanding that cyberbullying is bullying and is unacceptable, it will be addressed;

Three steps to stay out of harm's way

1. Respect other people - online and off. Don't spread rumours about people or share their secrets, including their phone numbers and passwords.
2. If someone insults you online or by phone ignore them and tell an adult.
3. 'Do as you would be done by.' Think how you would feel if you were bullied. You're responsible for your own behaviour – make sure you don't distress other people or cause them to be bullied by someone else.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Head Teacher who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy as part of the he Head Teacher report.

This cyber-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by reviewing incidents in discussion with the he Head Teacher.

Governors analyse information with regard to gender, age and ethnic background of all children involved in cyber-bullying incidents.