Haytor View Community Primary School & Nursery
Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy 2017 - 18

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

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 messenging 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?
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 using MSM (Microsoft Messenger) or Yahoo Chat – although there are others.
7. Bullying via websites — use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal "own web space" sites such as Bebo (which works by signing on in one's school, therefore making it easy to find a victim) and Myspace – although there are others.

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 allows 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.

Haytor View Community Primary School has 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.
- 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.
- 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:

Text/video messaging
- You can easily stop receiving text messages for a while by turning off incoming messages for a couple of days. This might stop the person texting you by making them believe you've changed your phone number. Ask your mobile service provider for help.
- If the bullying persists, you can change your phone number. Ask your mobile service provider.
- Don't 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.
- Don't delete messages from cyber bullies. You don't have to read them, but you should keep them as evidence.
- Text harassment is a crime. If the calls are simply annoying, tell a teacher, parent or carer. If they are threatening or malicious and they persist, report them to the police, taking with you all the messages you've received.

Phone calls
If you get an abusive or silent phone call, don't hang up immediately. Instead, put the phone down and walk away for a few minutes. Then hang up or turn your phone off.
- Once they realise they can't get you rattled, callers usually get bored and stop bothering you.
- Always tell someone else: a teacher, youth worker, parent, or carer. Get them to support you and monitor what's going on.
- Don't give out personal details such as your phone number to just anyone. And never leave your phone lying around. When you answer your phone, just say 'hello', not your name. If they ask you to confirm your phone number, ask what number they want and then tell them if they've got the right number or not. You can use your voicemail to vet your calls. A lot of mobiles display the caller's number. See if you recognise it. If you don't, let it divert to voicemail instead of answering it.

- And don't leave your name on your voicemail greeting. You could get an adult to record your greeting. Their voice might stop the caller ringing again. Almost all calls nowadays can be traced. If the problem continues, think about changing your phone number. If you receive calls that scare or trouble you, make a note of the times and dates   and report them to the police. If your mobile can record calls, take the recording too.

Emails
- Never reply to unpleasant or unwanted emails ('flames') — the sender wants a response, so don't give them that satisfaction.
- Keep the emails as evidence. And tell an adult about them.
- Ask an adult to contact the sender's Internet Service Provider (ISP) by writing abuse@ and then the host, e.g. abuse@hotmail.com
- Never reply to someone you don't know, even if there's an option to 'unsubscribe'. Replying simply confirms your email address as a real one.

Web bullying
- If the bullying is on a website (e.g. Bebo, facebook, moodle) tell a teacher or parent, just as you would if the bullying were face-to-face – even if you don't actually know the bully's identity.
- Serious bullying should be reported to the police - for example threats of a physical or sexual nature. Your parent or teacher will help you do this.

Chat rooms and instant messaging
Never give out your name, address, phone number, school name or password online.
- It's a good idea to use a nickname. And don't give out photos of yourself. Don't accept emails or open files from people you don't 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. Don't ever give out passwords to your mobile or email account.

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, stay calm – and ignore them.
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.

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, firstly 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. Where appropriate 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.