

Littledean Church of England Primary School

Anti Cyber-Bullying Policy

'People with time for Children'

At Littledean C of E Primary School we believe that everyone in the school deserves to learn and to teach in a supportive and caring environment without fear of being bullied or harassed.

Communication technology plays an increasingly large and important part in the school curriculum. It is therefore important to acknowledge that sometimes, new technologies can be used for unpleasant or illegal purposes. At Littledean C of E Primary School we recognise the existence of cyber-bullying and the severity of the issue.

We are committed to:

- Educating pupils, staff and parents about cyber-bullying and its consequences.
- Providing a productive and healthy learning environment.
- Providing a robust policy in order to prevent, and if necessary deal with cyber-bullying should it arise at school or within the school community.
- Developing and improving the policies and procedures around cyber-bullying through regular evaluation and review.
- Providing a strong ant-bullying policy and action upon it when necessary.

Context

Bullying is based on unequal power relations, real or perceived. It will usually be repeated and difficult to defend against. It is intended to hurt the recipient emotionally and/or physically.

Cyber-bullying includes sending or posting harmful or upsetting text, images or other messages, using the internet, mobile phones or other communication technology. It can take many forms, but can go even further than face to face bullying by invading home and personal space and can target one or more people.

It can take place across all age groups and target pupils, staff and others.

It can include threats and intimidation, harassment, defamation, exclusion or peer rejection, impersonation and unauthorised publication of private information or images. It can include messages intended as jokes, but which have a harmful or upsetting effect.

Cyber-bullying may be carried out in many ways, including;

- Threatening, intimidating or upsetting messages;
- Threatening or embarrassing pictures and video clips via mobile phone cameras;
- Silent or abusive phone calls or using the victim's phone to harass others, to make them think the victim is responsible;
- Threatening or bullying emails, possibly sent using a pseudonym or someone else's name;
- Menacing or upsetting responses to someone in a chat room; Unpleasant messages sent during instant messaging;
- Unpleasant or defamatory information posted to blogs, personal websites and social networking sites (e.g. Facebook);
- In some cases, this type of behaviour may constitute a criminal offence.

At Littledean C of E Primary School cyber-bullying is considered as serious as any other form of bullying. Cyber-bullying issues will be dealt with in an appropriate manner depending on the severity and frequency of the issue.

Prevention of Cyber-Bullying

The Headteacher is in overall charge of the practices and procedures outlined in this policy and will ensure that their effectiveness is monitored. We will maintain details of agencies and resources that may assist in preventing and addressing cyber-bullying issues. All members of staff will be trained to identify signs of cyber-bullying and will be helped to keep informed about the technologies that children commonly use. We have an Acceptable Use policy which outlines how technology will be used within the school and this will be reviewed regularly.

The children in the school will be advised on cyber-bullying through curricular and pastoral activities. Where possible we will also make use of outside speakers to talk to the children about internet safety and how to use technology in a safe and appropriate way. We will provide e-safety talks for parents as a way of encouraging them to be pro-active in monitoring and discussing with their children how they are using technology.

All pupils, staff and parents are expected to comply with the school's Acceptable Use policy.

If Cyber-Bullying Occurs

If cyber-bullying is reported to a member of staff at this school, the child will, in the first instance be advised to not respond to any messages that they feel threatened or intimidated by. When dealing with issues all relevant policies and procedures will be referred to and followed. The Headteacher or, in her absence a member of the Senior Leadership Team must be informed of any issues regarding cyber-bullying. The parents of the children involved will be informed and if incidents are occurring outside of the school day they will be asked to take the lead on dealing with the incidents in an appropriate manner (e.g. close monitoring of their child's use of technology, speaking to other parents etc..) Other agencies who may need to be informed will be and if the incident is severe enough or repeated then the police will be informed.

Malicious posts or threats against pupils or teachers

If we are informed that there are malicious posts or threats posted against pupils or teachers we will inform the site and request that the comments are removed. Any evidence such as screenshots or print outs will be preserved and kept as a record. The Headteacher, or in her absence the Senior Leadership Team must be informed. If relating to a pupil then the parents must be informed. If the post is related to a teacher then the Chair of Governors will also be informed. The police will be informed and any related information will be passed on to them.

Responding to cyber-bullying

Cyber-bullying would generally be dealt with through the schools anti-bullying policy. Incidents of cyber-bullying would be most likely to happen when a child is using the technology that they have access to at home, as the technology that we have at school has a number of security blocks which mean that sites such as Facebook cannot be accessed using the school's internet access. However, if a child was to report that they are being bullied via social media for example, we have a duty of care to ensure that the child has their concerns listened to and dealt with. Parents in most cases will be in the best position to resolve cyber-bullying issues through vigilance at home. However we will always listen to concerns and advise parents where possible and direct them to the best agencies to deal with their issues.

Education

As part of our on-going commitment to the prevention of cyber-bullying, regular education and discussion about e-safety will take place as part of our Computing curriculum and work on PSHCE.

Written – September 2014

Approval by Full Governing Body – 10th October 2014