



St Joseph's RC Primary School ANTI-CYBER BULLYING POLICY

School Mission Statement

St Joseph's Primary School aims to provide a caring and learning community in which the contribution of each is recognised and developed as an expression of our Catholic faith and identity rooted in the Gospel and the teaching of Jesus Christ.

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.

Aims of Policy:

To ensure that pupils, staff and parents understand what cyber bullying is and how it can be combated.

To ensure that practices and procedures are agreed to prevent incidents of cyber bullying.

To ensure that reported incidents of cyber bullying are dealt with effectively and quickly.

Understanding Cyber bullying:

Cyber bullying is the use of ICT (usually a mobile phone and or the internet) to abuse another person.

It can take place anywhere and involve many people.

Anybody can be targeted including pupils and school staff.

It can include threats, intimidation, harassment, cyber-stalking, vilification, defamation, exclusion, peer rejection, impersonation, unauthorized publication of private information or images etc.

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. E-mails – threatening or bullying e-mails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else’s name.

5. Chat room bullying – menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in web-based chat room.

6. Instant messaging (IM) – unpleasant messages sent while children conduct realtime 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 St Joseph’s Primary School, we take this bullying as seriously as all other types of bullying and, therefore, will deal with each situation individually.

An episode may result in a simple verbal warning. It might result in a parental discussion. Clearly, more serious cases will result in further sanctions.

Procedures to Prevent Cyber bullying:

Staff, pupils, parents and governors to be made aware of issues surrounding cyber bullying.

Pupils and parents will be urged to report all school related incidents of cyber bullying.

Staff CPD will assist in learning about current technologies

Pupils will be involved in developing and communicating this policy.

Pupils will learn about cyber bullying through PSHE, assemblies, anti-bullying week activities and other curriculum projects.

Pupils will sign an Acceptable Use of ICT contract.

Parents will be provided with information and advice on how to combat cyber bullying

Pupils, parents and staff will be involved in reviewing and revising this policy and school procedure.

All reports of cyber bullying will be investigated, recorded, stored in the Head teacher’s office and monitored regularly.

The Local Authority can provide support and assistance in dealing with incidents of cyber bullying and can be contacted by staff and parents.

The police will be contacted in cases of actual or suspected illegal content.

Pupils at St Joseph’s are legally too young to access Facebook and can only do so with parental consent, therefore it is not in the remit of the school to deal with any issues relating to this site.

Signed.....*HR Carr* 25/08/2015

Chair of Policy (On behalf of M Jakeway)

St Joseph's RC Primary School

ANTI-CYBERBULLYING POLICY

Information For Pupils:

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, 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 chat room, watch what you say about where you live, the school you go to, your e-mail address etc.

All these things can help someone who wants to harm you build up a picture about you.

Keep and save any bullying e-mails, 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 and www.wiredsafety.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.

If the bullying persists, you can change your phone number. Ask your mobile service provider about this.

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.

1. Always tell someone else: a teacher, youth worker, parent, or carer. Get them to support you and monitor what's going on.
2. Don't give out personal details such as your phone number to just anyone. 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.

3. 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.

E-mails

Never reply to unpleasant or unwanted e-mails ('flames') – the sender wants a response, so Don't give them that satisfaction.

Keep the e-mails 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 e-mail address as a real one.

Web bullying

If the bullying is on a website (e.g. Bebo, Facebook, MySpace) tell your 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.

Chat rooms and instant messaging

Never give out your name, address, phone number, school name or password on line.

It's a good idea to use a nickname and don't give out photos of yourself.

Don't accept e-mails 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 e-mail 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.

Useful websites:

www.kidsmart.org.uk/beingsmart

www.respectme.org.uk/cyberbullying

www.childnet.int.org

www.ant-bullyingalliance.org

www.antibullying.net

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bullying

www.chatdanger.com

www.ceop.gov.uk

www.childline.org.uk

www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying

www.kidscape.org.uk