



**Ladock Church of England School
Cyber-bullying Policy
Reviewed November 2017
Review Date – November 2019**

Introduction and Policy Aim

E-Safety encompasses the use of new technologies. It highlights the need to educate pupils about the benefits and risks of using technology and provides safeguards and awareness for users to enable them to control their online experience. The school's Cyber-Bullying policy will operate in conjunction with other policies including those for E-safety, Behaviour, Bullying, Curriculum and PSHE. Further guidance on E-Safety is available on South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) website which provides further information on e-safety issues and links to further information.

Background

What is cyberbullying?

"Cyberbullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual, using electronic forms of contact, repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend him or herself."

Seven categories of Cyberbullying have been identified:

- Text message bullying involves sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort.
- Picture/video-clip bullying via mobile phone cameras is used to make the person being bullied feel threatened or embarrassed, with images usually sent to other people. 'Happy slapping' involves filming and sharing physical attacks.
- Phone call bullying via mobile phone uses silent calls or abusive messages. Sometimes the bullied person's phone is stolen and used to harass others, who then think the phone owner is responsible. As with all mobile phone bullying, the perpetrators often disguise their numbers, sometimes using someone else's phone to avoid being identified.
- Email bullying uses email to send bullying or threatening messages, often using a pseudonym for anonymity or using someone else's name to pin the blame on them.
- Chat room bullying involves sending menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room.
- Bullying through instant messaging (IM) is an Internet-based form of bullying where children and young people are sent unpleasant messages as they conduct real-time conversations online.
- Bullying via websites includes the use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal polling sites. There has also been a significant increase in social networking sites for young people, which can provide new opportunities for cyberbullying.

What can schools do about it?

While other forms of bullying remain prevalent, cyberbullying is already a significant issue for many young people. Ladock School recognise that staff, parents and young people need to work together to prevent this and to tackle it whenever it occurs.

The School Monitoring Council (SMC), Head of Schools and schools have a duty to ensure that:

- bullying via mobile phone or the Internet is included in their mandatory anti-bullying policies,
- that these policies are regularly updated, and that
- teachers have sufficient knowledge to deal with cyberbullying in school.

Ladock School seeks to ensure that:

- the curriculum teaches pupils about the risks of new communications technologies, the consequences of their misuse, and how to use them safely including personal rights

- all e-communications used on the school site or as part of school activities off-site are monitored
- clear policies are set about the use of mobile phones at school and at other times when young people are under the school's authority
- Internet blocking technologies are continually updated and harmful sites blocked
- they work with pupils and parents to make sure new communications technologies are used safely, taking account of local and national guidance and good practice
- security systems are in place to prevent images and information about pupils and staff being accessed improperly from outside school
- they work with police and other partners on managing cyberbullying.

Scope

This policy applies to all members of the school community (including staff, pupils, governors, volunteers, parents/carers and visitors) who have access to and are users of school ICT systems, both in and out of school.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers Head of Schools, to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site and empowers members of staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour. This is pertinent to incidents of cyberbullying or other e-safety incidents covered by this policy, which may take place out of school, but is linked to membership of the school.

The school will deal with such incidents within this policy and associated behaviour and anti-bullying policies and will, where known, inform parents/carers of incidents of inappropriate e-safety behaviour that take place out of school.

Procedures

ICT and Mobile Phone/Tablets

If a cyberbullying incident directed at a child occurs using e-mail or mobile phone/tablet technology, either inside or outside school time, Ladock School will take the following steps:

- Advise the child not to respond to the message
- Refer to relevant policies, e.g. e-safety/acceptable use, anti-bullying and PSHE and apply appropriate sanctions
- Secure and preserve any evidence
- Inform the sender's e-mail service provider
- Notify parents of the children involved
- Consider delivering a parent workshop for the school community
- Consider informing the police depending on the severity or repetitious nature of the offence. The school recognises that some cyberbullying activities could be a criminal offence under a range of different laws including: the Protection from Harassment Act 1997; the Malicious Communication Act 1988; section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 and the Public Order Act 1986
- Inform the SWG4L for further advice

If malicious or threatening comments are posted on an Internet site or Social Networking Site about a pupil or member of staff, Ladock School will also:

- Inform and request that the comments be removed if the site is administered externally
- Secure and preserve any evidence
- Send all the evidence to www.ceop.gov.uk/contact_us.html if of a sexual nature
- Endeavour to trace the origin and inform the police as appropriate.
- Inform the SWG4L

Working with Parents

Ladock School has developed a home-school agreement and has provided information to parents about e-safety. Website links are also provided on the school website. The school will seek to regularly update parents on:

- What to do if problems arise
- E-communication standards and practices in school
- What's being taught in the curriculum
- Supporting parents and pupils if cyberbullying occurs by:
- Assessing the harm done
- Identifying those involved
- Taking steps to repair harm and to prevent recurrence

Acceptable Use Policy

Ladock School have developed an Acceptable Use Policy for staff and for pupils and these should be signed annually.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring will be carried out regularly by the ICT/E-Safety Coordinator and relevant SMC member. Monitoring may be in the form of lesson observations, pupil conferencing, planning and work scrutiny. A timetable of monitoring will be built into the School development plan.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of E-Safety.

This policy forms part of our annual school self evaluation process and will therefore be monitored in accordance with the School Development cycle by

- Headteacher
- ICT/E-Safety Co-ordinator
- Governor responsible for ICT/E-Safety

Policy adopted by staff: _____ (/ /)

Policy adopted by governors: _____ (/ /)

Date for review: November 2019