

ANTI CYBERBULLYING POLICY

Date	Review Date	Contact
01.09.18	01.09.19	Principal

Introduction

Newbury Hall recognises that technology plays an important and positive role in the lives of our students, both educationally and socially. Newbury Hall is committed to helping all members of the school community to understand both the benefits and the risks, and to equip students with the knowledge and skills to be able to use technology safely and responsibly.

Aims

The aims of this policy are to ensure that:

1. pupils, staff and parents are educated to understand what cyberbullying is and what its consequences can be
2. knowledge, policies and procedures are in place to prevent incidents of cyberbullying in our school or within our school community
3. we have effective measures to deal with cases of cyberbullying

What is Cyber-bullying?

Cyber-bullying 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. Cyber-bullying can take the form of:

- 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 cyber-bullying.

Preventive Measures

Newbury Hall expects all pupils to adhere to its guidelines for the safe use of the internet and additionally takes the following preventive measures.

- Internet blocking technologies are continually updated and harmful sites are blocked by our filtering system. Newbury Hall uses SonicWALL firewalls with the Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite. This provides website filtering for categories such as pornography, violence, hate and weapons. It also includes anti-virus and anti-malware protection.
- PSHE lessons and ICT lessons offer guidance on the safe use of social networking sites and cyber-bullying which covers blocking and removing contacts from “buddy lists”.
- Additionally, offers guidance on keeping names, addresses, passwords, mobile phone numbers and other personal details safe.
- Students are made aware of the risks of new communications technologies, the consequences of their misuse, and how to use them safely including personal rights. Mobile phones are permitted in the classroom at the discretion of the teacher.
- The use of cameras on mobile phones is not allowed in school bathroom areas or in the bedrooms of the residence or changing areas when on school visits.
- Security systems are in place to prevent images and information about students and staff being accessed improperly from outside school.
- Ensure staff can recognise nonverbal signs and indications of cyber-bullying. These include depression, anxiety, or fear. Staff should be alert to students seeming upset after using the internet or their mobile phone. This might involve subtle comments or changes in relationships with friends. They might be unwilling to talk or be secretive about their online activities and mobile phone use.
- Publicise and promote the message that asking for help is the right thing to do and shows strength and good judgement.
- Publicise to all members of the school community the ways in which cyber-bullying can be reported
- The Principal may impose sanctions for the misuse, or attempted misuse of the internet.

Responding to Cyber-bullying

Most cases of cyber-bullying will be dealt with through the school’s existing Anti-bullying Policy and Behaviour Policy. Some features of cyber-bullying differ from other forms of bullying and may prompt a particular response. The key differences are:

- **Impact:** the scale and scope of cyber-bullying can be greater than other forms of bullying
- **Targets and perpetrators:** the people involved may have a different profile to traditional bullies and their targets
- **Location:** the 24/7 and anywhere nature of cyber-bullying
- **Anonymity:** the person being bullied will not always know who is bullying them
- **Motivation:** some pupils may not be aware that what they are doing is bullying
- **Evidence:** unlike other forms of bullying, the target of the bullying will have evidence of its occurrence. It is possible that a member of staff may be a victim and these responses apply to them too.

Support for the person being bullied

- Offer emotional support; reassure the student that they have done the right thing in telling.
- Advise the student not to retaliate or reply. Instead, keep the evidence and take it to the Principal, Lead Educator, Operations Lead or Student Services Manager.
- Advise the student to consider what information they have in the public domain
- Unless the victim sees it as a punishment, they may be advised to change e.g. mobile phone number
- In some cases, the student being bullied may be able to block the person bullying from their sites and services
- If hurtful or embarrassing content is being distributed, try to get it removed from the web. If the person who posted it is known, ensure they understand why it is wrong and ask them to remove it. Alternatively, contact the host provider and make a report to get the content taken down.
- The Principal will contact the police in cases of actual/suspected illegal content.

Investigation

- Staff and pupils should be advised to preserve evidence and a record of abuse; save phone messages, record or save and print instant messenger conversations, print or produce a screengrab of social network pages, print, save and forward to the Principal or Student Services Manager the whole email message.
- If images are involved, determine whether they might be illegal or raise child protection concerns. If so, contact: Internet Watch Foundation (www.imf.org.uk) or the local police.
- Any allegations against staff should be handled as other allegations would be.

Working with the bully and applying sanctions

The aim of the sanctions will be:

- to help the person harmed to feel safe again and be assured that the bullying will stop
- to hold the perpetrator to account, getting them to recognise the harm caused and deter them from repeating the behaviour
- to demonstrate to the school community that cyberbullying is unacceptable and that the school has effective ways of dealing with it, so deterring others from behaving similarly
- The outcome must include helping the bully to recognise the consequence of their actions and providing support to enable the attitude and behaviour of the bully to change.

School staff may request a pupil to reveal a message or other phone content and may confiscate a phone; they may not search the contents of the phone unless the Principal decides there is just cause to do so, for example an immediate threat or safety issue.

Signed:



Date: 01/09/18

Jon Crocker
Principal