Roman Roao Primary School

Anti – Cyber bullying Policy

Cyber bullying

Cyber bullying includes (but is not limited to) communicating via electronic means with the objective of causing hurt, fear, embarrassment, humiliation, alarm and/or distress to one or more persons.

Cyber bullying is using the Internet via mobile phones, tablets, gaming and computers etc with the objective of upsetting someone.

It may take the form of general insults or impersonation, defamation or prejudice-based bullying.

Unlike other forms of bullying a once-off posting can constitute bullying.

While bullying involves a repetition of unwelcome behaviour the **Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools, September 2013,** states that *"…in the context of these procedures placing a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour."*

While this policy addresses issues related to cyber bullying of students (i.e. situations in which one or more students are the victim[s] of bullying) the policy also applies to teaching and other school staff.

This policy applies to activities and events that take place:

During school time (including break times);

Going to and from school;

School tours/trips; and

Extra-curricular activities.

Roman Road School reserves the right to take action against bullying perpetrated outside the school which spills over into the school.

Key measures to combat cyber bullying

This Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy

Students will be informed about cyber bullying in the course of their education at the school.

Serious cyber bullying issues may be reported to the Designated Safeguarding leads.

Teachers/facilitator will dedicate a standalone lessons to deal with the issue of cyber

bullying Staff and parents will periodically be invited to a talk on bullying to include cyber

bullying.

Students and staff are expected to comply with the school's policy on the use of computers in the School. (Acceptable use of the Internet Policy).

Parents will be provided with information and advice on cyber bullying.   Parents and students are advised via this policy that it is illegal for a child under 13 to register with and use Facebook.

There are also restrictions on many other social media sites

Pupils are **not permitted** to have mobile phones in school, unless agreed with the HT or DHT (ie in extreme circumstances)

Teachers will investigate, record and report all incidents of cyber bullying.

Roman Road School endeavours to block access to inappropriate web sites, using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems. Furthermore no pupil is allowed to work on the internet in any school location without a member of staff present.

If pupils engage in bullying sanctions will be applied as per *Behaviour Policy*

 What is cyber-bullying?

There are many types of cyber-bullying. The more common types are:

1. **Text messages** – can be 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, 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. **Chat room bullying (and or gaming)** – menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room
6. **Instant messaging (IM)** – unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real-time conversations online using MSM (Microsoft Messenger), Yahoo Chat or similar tools
7. **Bullying via websites** – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal 'own web space' sites such as You Tube, Facebook and Ask.fm– although there are others

Explanation of slang terms used when referring to cyber-bullying activity

1. **'Flaming':** Online fights using electronic messages with angry and vulgar language
2. **'Harassment':** Repeatedly sending offensive, rude, and insulting messages
3. **'Cyber Stalking':** Repeatedly sending messages that include threats of harm or are highly intimidating or engaging in other on-line activities that make a person afraid for his or her own safety
4. **'Denigration':** 'Dissing' someone online. Sending or posting cruel gossip or rumours about a person to damage his or her reputation or friendships
5. **'Impersonation':** Pretending to be someone else and sending or posting material online that makes someone look bad, gets her/him in trouble or danger, or damages her/his reputation or friendships
6. **'Outing and Trickery':** Tricking someone into revealing secret or embarrassing information which is then shared online
7. **'Exclusion':** Intentionally excluding someone from an on-line group, like a 'buddy list'

This list is not exhaustive and the terms used continue to change

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

Supervision and monitoring of pupils

The Board of Governors confirms that appropriate supervision and monitoring policies and practices are in place to both prevent and deal with bullying behaviour and to facilitate early intervention where possible.

Prevention of harassment

The Board of Governors confirms that the school will, in accordance with its obligations under equality legislation, take all such steps that are reasonably practicable to prevent the sexual harassment of pupils or staff or the harassment of pupils or staff on any of the nine grounds specified, i.e. gender including transgender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability or race.

Procedures to prevent cyber-bullying

Staff, pupils, parents and Board of Governors will be made aware of issues surrounding cyber bullying through the use of appropriate awareness-raising exercises

Pupils will learn about cyber bullying through Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and other curriculum projects

The school will engage speakers to facilitate workshops on cyber bullying for pupils and parents

Staff CPD (Continuous Professional Development) will assist in learning about current technologies and issues linked to Cyberbullying

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

Pupils will sign an Acceptable Use of ICT at the start of each school year and on entry to school.

Information and Communication Technology) contract.

Parents will be expected to sign an Acceptable Use of ICT contract prior to enrolment and to discuss its meaning with their children, as part of Home school Agreement

Pupils, teachers and parents will be urged to report all incidents of cyber bullying to the school

All reports of cyber bullying will be investigated, recorded, stored securely and monitored regularly