St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy

Everyone Together With Jesus

At St Joseph's cyber bullying is defined as the use of a mobile phone or the internet to deliberately bully another person. We have a responsibility to ensure that cyber bullying does not take place in this school by ensuring pupils, school personnel and parents understand what it is and how it can be prevented.

We understand cyber bullying is highly intrusive and the hurt it causes can be very severe. As it leaves no physical scars cyber bullying is not easy to detect by a parent or a teacher.

We acknowledge cyber bullying can take place anywhere and can target pupils and school personnel. There are many types of cyber bullying such as text messages, picture/video clips, mobile phone calls, emails, chat room bullying, instant messaging and the use of websites to convey threats, intimidation, harassment etc.

We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

Aims

- To ensure pupils, school personnel and parents understand what cyber bullying is and how it can be prevented.
- To have in place procedures to prevent incidents of cyber bullying.
- To have in place effective procedures to deal with all reported incidents of cyber bullying.

Procedure

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and visitors to the school are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring policies are made available to parents;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- work closely with staff to review how the school network is monitored;
- ensure the Acceptable Use Policy outlines how IT and the Internet should be used;
- provide support for those pupils and school personnel who may be victims of cyber bullying;

- deal with all incidents of cyber bullying quickly and effectively;
- consider the use of legal powers under the Education Act 2006 that allow him/her to regulate behaviour of pupils when they are off-site;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

Role of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

The SLT will:

- work closely with the Headteacher to ensure that:

  - the Acceptable Use Policy is up to date
  - the school network is monitored
  - information is provided for pupils and parents

- provide guidance and support to all staff;
- ensure cyber bullying is discussed during staff training;
- ensure cyberbullying is discussed with pupils through class discussions;
- invite pupils to consider the effects of cyberbullying;
- help review anti-bullying and pupil behaviour and discipline policies;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- review and monitor;

Role of the Governors

The Governors will:

- work closely with the Headteacher and the SLT;
- ensure this policy and other linked policies are up to date;
- ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of this policy;

Role of School Personnel

School personnel will:

- comply with all the afore mentioned aspects of this policy;
- be alert to the dangers of cyber bullying;
- report all incidents of cyber bullying to a member of the Senior Leadership Team;
- ensure that no pupil has unsupervised access to the Internet;
- regularly remind pupils of:
  - the safe use of the IT suite;
  - the Acceptable Use Policy;
  - the need to report any incident of cyber bullying to a member of the school personnel;
- inform pupils of the dangers of cyber bullying through PSHE, collective worship, anti-bullying week activities etc;
- be advised not to give their mobile phone numbers or email addresses to any pupil;
- be advised not to contact any child or parent via social media;
- ensure that mobile phones or electronic devices brought into school are stored away safely and securely (in the school office).

Role of Pupils

Pupils will:

- comply with all the afore mentioned aspects of this policy;
- be encouraged to report all incidents of cyber bullying to a member of the school personnel;
- not bring mobile phones to school

Role of Parents

Parents will:

- be made aware of this policy;
- comply with this policy;
- sign an Internet Permission Form;
- be encouraged to discuss cyber bullying with their children;
- report all incidents of cyber bullying involving their child to the school;
- Be aware that there is an age limit of 13 for setting up a facebook account and for some other social media sites.

Recording and Reporting

- All reported incidents are investigated and dealt with.
- Parents are informed of all events and what actions have been taken.
- Records will be kept of all incidents and their outcomes.

Dealing with Cyber Bullying Incidents

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team will:

- deal with all incidents of cyber bullying quickly and effectively;
- impose sanctions as outlined in the school's Behaviour policy on any pupil identified as being the bully;
- confiscate any mobile phone if brought to school;
- contact the police and social services if the cyber bullying is sufficiently severe;
- keep parents informed of the school's actions

Counselling & Support

- Counselling and support mechanisms are in place to help those who have been bullied.
- All perpetrators of bullying are given time to discuss why they have bullied and why their actions were wrong.

Raising Awareness of this Policy

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- the School Prospectus
- the school website
- the Staff Handbook
- meetings with parents
- school events
- meetings with school personnel
- communications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of term newsletters
- Headteacher reports to the Governing Body
- information displays around school

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

Annually (or when the need arises) the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher and governors and the necessary improvements will be made.