



Anti Cyber-Bullying Policy

Author	Written / Reviewed	Passed by Governors	Next Review
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The policy is available

- On the staff shared area
- On the school website

This policy reflects the values and philosophy of Shenstone Lodge School in relation to cyber-bullying and applies across both sites.

It sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate, and gives guidance on prevention, responding to cyber-bullying behaviour, and supporting bullies and their victims.

Our school embraces the advantages of modern technology in terms of the educational benefits it brings, however the school is mindful of the potential for bullying to occur.

Central to the School's anti-bullying policy is the belief that 'all pupils have a right not to be bullied' and that 'bullying is always unacceptable'.

The School also recognises that it must 'take note of bullying perpetrated outside School which spills over into the School'. Under powers granted by the EIA 2006, the Head is able to police cyber-bullying or any bullying aspects carried out by pupils off site and even at home.

DEFINITION OF 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.

By cyber-bullying, we mean bullying by electronic media such as:

Bullying by texts or messages or calls on mobile phones

The use of mobile phone cameras to cause distress, fear or humiliation

Posting threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating material on websites, to include blogs, personal websites, social networking sites

Using e-mail to message others

Hijacking/cloning e-mail accounts

Making threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating remarks in chat rooms, to include Facebook, Bebo, Youtube and Ratelyteacher

LEGAL ISSUES

Cyber-bullying is generally criminal in character. There are specific laws that apply to cyberspace, for example :

It is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information in any media including internet sites.

Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 makes it an offence to send, by public means of a public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or one of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it an offence to knowingly pursue any course of conduct amounting to harassment.

POLICY

Shenstone Lodge educates its pupils both in the proper use of telecommunications and about the serious consequences of cyber-bullying and will, through PSHE, in computing lessons and assemblies, continue to inform and educate its pupils in these fast changing areas.

Shenstone Lodge staff will respond effectively to reports of cyber-bullying or harassment and has systems in place to respond to it. The school endeavours to block access to inappropriate web sites, using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems.

Whilst education and guidance remain at the heart of what we do, Shenstone Lodge reserves the right to take action against those who take part in cyber-bullying.

All bullying is damaging but cyber-bullying and harassment can be invasive of privacy at all times. These acts may also be criminal acts.

Shenstone Lodge supports victims and, when necessary, will work with the Police to detect those involved in criminal acts.

Shenstone Lodge will use, as appropriate, the full range of sanctions to correct, punish or remove pupils who bully fellow pupils or harass staff in this way, both in or out of school.

Shenstone Lodge will use its power of confiscation where necessary to prevent pupils from committing crimes or misusing equipment.

All members of the School community are aware they have a duty to bring to the attention of the Head of School any example of cyber-bullying or harassment that they know about or suspect.

GUIDANCE FOR STAFF

If you suspect or are told about a cyber-bullying incident, follow the protocol outlined below:

Mobile Phones

Ask the pupil to show you the mobile phone

Note clearly everything on the screen relating to an inappropriate text message or image, to include the date, time and names

Make a transcript of a spoken message, again record date, times and names

Tell the pupil to save the message/image

Inform a member of the Senior Leadership team or Designated Lead for Child Protection as appropriate and pass them the information that you have

Computers

Ask the pupil to get up on-screen the material in question

Ask the pupil to save the material

Print off the offending material straight away

Make sure you have got all pages in the right order and that there are no omissions

Inform a member of the Senior Leadership team or Designated Lead for Child Protection as appropriate and pass them the information that you have. Normal procedures to interview pupils and to take statements will then be followed particularly if a child protection issue is presented.

GUIDANCE FOR PUPILS

If you believe you or someone else is the victim of cyber-bullying, you must speak to an adult as soon as possible. This person could be a parent/guardian, or a member of staff at Shenstone Lodge.

Do not answer abusive messages but save them and report them

Do not delete anything until it has been shown to your parents/guardian or a member of staff at Shenstone Lodge (even if it is upsetting, the material is important evidence which may need to be used later as proof of cyber-bullying)

Do not give out personal IT details

Never reply to abusive e-mails

Never reply to someone you do not know

Stay in public areas in chat rooms

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

It is vital that parents and the school work together to ensure that all pupils are aware of the serious consequences of getting involved in anything that might be seen to be cyber-bullying.

Shenstone Lodge informs parents of the cyber-bullying policy and the procedures in place to deal with cyber-bullying.

Parents can help by making sure their child understands the school's policy and, above all, how seriously Shenstone Lodge takes incidents of cyber-bullying

Parents should also explain to their children legal issues relating to cyber-bullying

If parents believe their child is the victim of cyber-bullying, they should save the offending material (if need be by saving an offensive text on their or their child's mobile phone) and make sure they have all relevant information before deleting anything

Parents should contact the school as soon as possible. A meeting can then be arranged with a member of the Senior Leadership Team

If the incident falls in the holidays Shenstone Lodge reserves the right to take action against bullying perpetrated outside the school which spills over into the school.

E-SAFETY AT HOME

Several sites offer helpful advice to parents, particularly with respect to how they can best monitor their child's use of the computer at home. Important and useful information can be found on the following site:

www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk/safeguarding-learners/Safeguarding-learners-content/Parents-and-carers

NATIONAL BODIES

Further support and guidance may be obtained from the following:

www.beatbullying.org

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk