

Cyber Bullying Policy

References: Children Act (1989)
Equality Act (2010)
Behaviour and discipline in school (2013) DfE
Preventing and Tackling Bullying (2013) DfE

Date: March 2020
Review Date: **September 2020**
Policy Contact: Mr James Passam, Deputy Head

CYBERBULLYING POLICY

1. The School will not tolerate cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined as the use of information and communications technology (ICT), particularly e-mail, mobile phones and the internet, to deliberately upset someone else. It can take many forms, including threats, intimidation, harassment or cyberstalking by, for example, repeatedly sending unwanted messages or texts.

It differs from other forms of bullying as it may take place at any time of day, the potential audience is huge and the bullying can take place at home and away from School. This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's:

- *Antibullying Policy*
- *Internet Access Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)*
- *Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Devices*
- *Seaford College Safeguarding Policy*

Cyberbullying is referred to in the School's general Anti-Bullying Policy:

Cyberbullying is defined as the use of information and communications technology (ICT), particularly email, mobile phones and the internet, to deliberately upset someone else. It can take many forms, including threats, intimidation, harassment or cyberstalking by, for example, repeatedly sending unwanted messages or texts.

2. In cases of cyberbullying bystanders, or 'accessories' to the bullying, often have a more active role, e.g. forwarding messages or contributing to chat room discussions. Therefore although they may not have started the bullying they are active participants and often make the matter worse.

The School makes it clear to all pupils that bystanders have a key responsibility to the School community and to anyone they see being bullied or victimised. They are encouraged not to tolerate such behaviour and to stand up for what they know to be right, for example by telling a member of staff what they have seen or heard.

Access to the School's ICT resources is a privilege and continuance of this facility requires pupils to behave appropriately and to display a responsible attitude at all times, both within and outside of School.

3. Cyberbullying may consist of threats, harassment, embarrassment, humiliation, defamation or impersonation. It may take the form of general insults, or prejudice-based bullying, for example homophobic, sexist, racist or other forms of discrimination via the misuse of:

- Virtual Learning Environments
- Chat rooms
- Websites
- Social networking sites e.g Facebook, Twitter etc

- Mobile and fixed-point phones
- Digital cameras and video conference calls
- Games and virtual world sites

4. What should a pupil do if they are being cyberbullied?

Where appropriate, pupils should keep any potential evidence, for example: emails, photographs or text messages, and screen captures

5. As is made clear in the school's anti-bullying policy, any incident of bullying must be reported immediately to the Headmaster or Deputy Headmaster.
6. Perpetrators risk immediate exclusion, either temporary or permanent.
7. Pupils are frequently reminded via assemblies, tutor sessions and Internet Awareness Days on how to use the internet in a positive way. The School also has a comprehensive Internet Access Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) which is frequently reviewed, and also refers specifically to online learning.