



Anti-Bullying Appendix A: **Cyberbullying and Digital Safety**

Cyberbullying is any bullying behaviour carried out by electronic means. It typically includes intentionally causing someone or a group of people harm by sharing/posting unkind or offensive comments, sharing private information to shame or ridicule, impersonating others and promoting rumours or fake news about others.

For younger people the perpetrators are usually people that they know (e.g. from school) and quite often it is a continuation of bullying behaviour that might be happening elsewhere. It can feel inescapable for the target of cyberbullying.

Types of Cyber Bullying

- Text messaging bullying
- Picture/video clip bullying via mobile phone
- Phone-call bullying via mobile phone
- E-mail bullying
- Chat room bullying
- Bullying via website
- Bullying through instant messaging

If your child is experiencing or has experienced cyberbullying:

- Reassure them they are not alone.
- Remember every platform will have an option to report or flag offensive content. They may also be able to 'unfriend' or 'unfollow', 'mute' or 'block' the person bullying.

It is important they don't respond or retaliate to the person bullying and to seek help.

If your child has made a mistake in some way and hurt someone else, encourage them to say sorry. Delete any unkind posts and make amends.

The school takes steps to make parents / carers aware of the dangers of unsupervised use of mobile phones (*Please see Mobile Phone Policy*) or the internet and to educate pupils about the proper use of modern technologies. Each class teacher will deliver E-Safety.

Once cyberbullying is reported to school by parent/carers or pupils we will take it seriously and senior staff will investigate.

The Head Teacher or senior staff will:

- support and reassure the target of bullying and their parent/carers and tell them they did the right thing to inform school;
- advise the parent/carer and pupil to keep evidence of the bullying. This could be done by taking a screen shot or printing a webpage and not to delete phone messages;
- remind the pupil not to retaliate or reply to the messages;

- give the pupil and parent/carers advice for making sure it doesn't happen again. This can include blocking, changing contact details, passwords and advise how to report abuse online;
- contact and meet the parents of the pupil(s) responsible for the bullying;
- speak to the pupil(s) bullying on line and investigate fully explaining the consequences of their actions and that it has to stop;
- ensure records of actions are logged on our electronic record system CPOMS;
- provide support in line with the school's procedures for bullying behaviour and duly monitored etc.

To prevent Cyber Bullying the school will:

- treat it as a form of bullying within the Anti-Bullying Policy, reminding children, parent/carers and staff that no matter what form it takes, bullying is not acceptable;
- teach pupils about their rights and responsibilities when online;
- have a reporting or telling culture encouraging pupils not to be 'bystanders' to bullying in any form;
- promote a positive and supportive culture in which bullying cannot thrive;
- regularly promote awareness of the risks of cyber-bullying and safe practices when using technology through lessons and assemblies throughout the year;
- regularly remind children that what they post or say online or in texts or social apps can hurt someone and have a consequence;
- ensure the computing curriculum teaches children how to recognise cyber-bullying and how to use ICT safely through a specific e-safety strand and as an integral part of any teaching and learning for ICT;
- ensure that any related policies, including the Acceptable Use Policy, make specific reference to anti-bullying procedures;
- ensure the staff teach safer internet use and strictly apply to all school policies;
- share the Mobile Phone Policy and provide 'no phone' reminders to parents/carers in newsletter.

Balance and perspective are essential as a whole community approach to ensuring safe use of the internet. The responsibility for this is both the school's in educating their pupils safe use on the net, and the parent/carers' in understanding that they need to monitor and manage their children's use of the net.

The school believes that parental support and understanding in safe use of the internet is an essential component in managing cyber-bullying.

Please see the E-Safety Policy for further information.

Collecting and saving evidence

It is important to be able to share evidence of what has happened with the school as soon as possible.

Although it will be tempting for your child to delete distressing messages, without proof, schools, service providers or the police are limited as to how they can respond. Please keep the evidence and bring into school.

Make sure all text messages and emails are saved, and where possible, back these up elsewhere. However, please be aware that you should not copy sexual images if you suspect the person shown is below 18.

Most social media platforms have options for reporting abuse. You may want to screenshot and save images in case the content is deleted before you can raise your concerns (e.g. with the school

or the police). Again, please remember that you should not copy sexual images if you suspect the person shown is below 18.

Reporting to the Police: Cyberbullying is not a specific criminal offence in the UK. However, incidents which are considered as harassment, threats or menacing communication may be an offence. For more information about whether the police can help, contact your local police station or 101.

Reporting sexual abuse or grooming

If you have concerns about inappropriate communications that your child has received you should report this on the Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre website: www.ceop.police.uk



Anti-Bullying Appendix B: **Homophobic Bullying – supplementary advice & guidance**

Tackling homophobic bullying and celebrating difference in our school

Our language code - what is homophobic language?

Homophobic language means terms of abuse that are often used towards lesbian, gay and bisexual people, as well as referring to something or someone as inferior.

Any homophobic language used in our schools must be addressed immediately. Informing children why it's wrong and how it can be hurtful and offensive is paramount in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all our children.

It's OK to explain what words such as; gay, lesbian, bi-sexual mean to children in an age-appropriate manner.

Celebrating differences at our schools must be at the forefront of everything we do. We believe that ignoring them or saying you can't tell them won't help. All staff must take a consistent approach to homophobic language, like all other forms of discriminatory language.

- **Question what the pupil said**

"What do you mean by that? Can trainers really be gay? Do you realise that language is homophobic/biphobic/transphobic? Do you understand why?"

- **Explain what the word means**

"Did you know that word actually means...."

- **Link the incident to school values**

"In this school we are inclusive and respect everyone..."

- **Present it in a personal context**

"How would you feel if someone said that to you?"

Here are a few examples of other language stems to support you in tackling homophobic bullying:

"At our school we believe that everyone is special and we should celebrate our differences. We do not use the word gay/lesbian etc. in a negative way."

"Our school policy states that we are all responsible for making the school a safe place for children and teachers. That kind of language is homophobic and will make people feel unsafe. Therefore, it is not acceptable."

"Have you ever considered what it must be like for gay people to hear that kind of language? How do you think it is going to make them feel?"

“You cannot tell whether someone is gay or straight just from how they look or behave.”

“I am really surprised and disappointed to hear you say that. I hoped you would recognise that it is important to treat everyone with respect and that it is therefore wrong to use homophobic language.”

“That kind of language is homophobic and you know it is against school policy to make homophobic remarks. Homophobia is as bad as racism and sexism.”

“How do you think ... feels hearing you talk about her mum like that? How do you think her mum would feel? How might you feel if someone was talking about your mum?”

“It does not matter whether someone has two mums or two dads. The important thing is that they love and look after each other and that they love and look after their children.”



Anti-Bullying Appendix C: **Travelling independently to and from school**

We know that bullying can occur outside the school gates and on journeys to and from school. Bullying can happen anywhere. The bullying may be done by pupils from our own school, by pupils from other schools or by people who do not attend school at all.

If your child is reluctant to go to school, asks you to go with them, wants to leave home earlier or later or comes home upset, with lost belongings, torn clothes or unexplained injuries they may be being bullied on the school journey.

Changes in behaviour

Keep a watchful eye and find time to gently ask your child whether anything is worrying them about the school journey. Look out for changes in their usual behaviour. If they tell you they're having a difficult time travelling to/from school take it seriously. They may not use the word bullying but might talk about name calling, being pushed around or having their belongings taken from them. Disabled children and those with special educational needs can be especially at risk. Let them know that you want to help and that together you will make it stop.

Legal right to safety

Your child has a legal right to be safe on their journey to school. Bullying is a safeguarding issue. This means it is everyone's responsibility to keep your child safe wherever they are. There is also a new emphasis on 'contextual safeguarding' which means looking at all areas including physical spaces where a child may be at risk.

Tell the school

If your child is being bullied on the school journey, tell us straight away. We will investigate bullying or harassment incidents outside of school. Keep us updated by reporting any new incidents.

If your child is in danger

Bullying can be a criminal offence. If your child is physically harmed, sexually assaulted or threatened with harm contact:

- British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 60 for railways
- 101 for the police
- If your child is in immediate danger dial 999



Anti-Bullying Appendix D: Parent/Carer flowchart for reporting suspected cases of bullying

