Lambton Primary School

Policy for the Prevention of Cyberbullying

This policy should be read in conjunction with
- ✓ The child protection policy
- ✓ E safety policy
- ✓ Staff handbook
- ✓ Staff behaviour policy
- ✓ Guide to safer working practice
- ✓ Anti-bullying policy
- ✓ Behaviour policy
- ✓ ICT policy

Rationale

In our school we believe that al members of our school community have the right to be treated with respect in a supportive, caring and safe environment.

In line with the above policies, we believe that every individual in our school community has a duty to report all incidents of bullying whether it happens to themselves or to another person.

What is Cyber Bullying?

There are many types of Cyber Bullying.

1. **Text messages** –that are 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 or 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 using a pseudonym or somebody else's name.
5. **Chat room bullying** – menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in web-based Chat room.

6. **Instant messaging** – unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real time conversations online using MSM (Microsoft messenger) or Yahoo Chat – although there are others.
7. **Bullying via websites** – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal 'own web space' sites such as Bebo, Facebook and Myspace.

Technology allows the user to bully anonymously or from an unknown location 24 hours a day. Cyber Bullying leaves no physical scars so it is perhaps less evident to a parent or teacher but it is highly intrusive to the victim often taking place within the safety of their own home.

At Lambton Primary School we view these types of bullying in the same light as any other type of bullying and will work with all persons involved to prevent the recurrence of actions.

Prevention of Cyberbullying

At Lambton Primary School we recognise that we need to teach teachers and pupils to use technology safely and to know the risks and consequences of misusing them.

1. Guidelines on responsible use of the internet are displayed and shared with children.
2. As part of the ICT and PSHE curriculum we will teach pupils about safe Internet use and what to do if cyber bullying occurs.
3. Where possible we will encourage the use of the VLE so that all messages can be monitored and sites visited subject to the appropriate firewall.
4. As part of the staff training and safeguarding training staff will learn about E safety and 'Thinkuknow'.

Where Cyber Bullying Occurs

When cyber bullying occurs it will be recorded (using school system:CPOMS) and reported in line with the procedures set out in the Anti Bullying Policy. This will include imposing restrictions on the use of equipment in school and may result in all access to the internet being stopped. The incident will be recorded and SLT informed. Parents will be informed.

Monitoring

All incidents of bullying will be recorded by the Head Teacher and reported on a termly basis to Governors as part of the Head Teacher report.

This policy will be reviewed by Governors annually as part of their annual review of policies.

Ratified by Governors 12.3.19
Review Spring 2020