



## Halberton & Uplowman Federation Cyber Bullying Policy

### Statement of Intent:

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils and staff so they can learn and work in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. In addition we understand the importance Computing plays within the curriculum at Halberton & Uplowman Federation. Bullying of any kind is totally unacceptable at our schools. If Cyberbullying does occur, all pupils and staff should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

### What is cyber bullying?

Cyberbullying is the use of ICT, particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else. Bullying is not new, but some features of cyberbullying are different from other forms of bullying. These differences include:

- the invasion of home and personal space;
- the audience can be very large and reached rapidly;
- people who cyberbully may attempt to remain anonymous;
- cyberbullying can take place between peers and between generations, with teachers/staff becoming victims; some instances can begin unintentionally.

### Cyber bullying

Will typically involve a pupil or group of pupils using social networking to tease, abuse, denigrate, socially exclude and/or threaten another pupil or group of pupils.

To prevent such bullying occurring at Halberton & Uplowman we will ensure the following:

- reference to cyber bullying is made in the home school agreement;
- children and parents sign an acceptable use agreement;
- the school will promote positive behaviour beyond the school gates and impose sanctions for inappropriate behaviour which reflects negatively on the school and its values;
- parents will follow the school complaints procedures and refrain from using social networking sites to voice concerns regarding school issues.

The school's staff has a legal duty of care that requires them to share with Devon Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub any information regarding the safety and wellbeing of any pupils in the schools. The Governing body and Executive Headteacher have a similar duty of care for the safety of school staff. As such, it is likely that the record made of an individual's violent, aggressive or defamatory behaviour shown towards school staff, including comments on social networking sites, will be passed on to any appropriate organisation.

## Cyberbullying and the Law

Bullying is never acceptable. The school community has a duty to protect all of its members and provide a safe, healthy environment. Although bullying is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, there are laws that can apply in terms of harassing or threatening behaviour.

### What do we do?

While other forms of bullying remain prevalent, cyber bullying is already a significant issue for many young people. Halberton & Uplowman Federation recognise that staff, parents and young people need to work together to prevent this and to tackle it whenever it occurs.

Halberton & Uplowman Federation ensures that the curriculum teaches pupils about the risks of new communications technologies, the consequences of their misuse, and how to use them safely including personal rights. All e-communications used on the school site or as part of school activities off-site are monitored. Internet blocking technologies are continually updated and harmful sites blocked.

All bullying incidents are recorded and investigated. Staff and parents are advised to make records as these can act as evidence. At Halberton & Uplowman, incidents should be recorded in the E-Safety file held by the E-Safety Coordinator. Steps will be taken to identify the bully, which may involve interviewing witnesses, contacting the service provider and the police if necessary so that the data of other users can be accessed.

If screenshots are taken of any offensive material found on social networking sites then a protocol must be followed for this. If the victim is a third party such as a member of staff they need to give their consent. The screenshot should also be taken in the presence of a colleague and the whole process documented. (For example, the screenshot should be signed and dated by more than one person.)

Handling screenshots must comply with the first data protection principle, the schools must;

- have legitimate grounds for collecting and using the personal data;
- not use the data in ways that have unjustified adverse effects on the individuals concerned;
- be transparent about how you intend to use the data and give individuals appropriate privacy notices when collecting their personal data;
- handle people's personal data only in ways they would responsibly expect; and
- make sure you do not do anything unlawful with the data.

### Monitoring, evaluation and review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

**The Governors of Halberton & Uplowman Federation have reviewed and revised this policy in line with the Disability Discrimination guidance and the Equality Policy.**

**This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Whole School Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy, Equality Policy, Online-Safety Policy, Acceptable Use Agreement and Special Educational Needs & Disability Policy.**

Presented to the Teaching & Learning Committee \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_ (dated)

Ratified by the Full Governing Body \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_ (dated)

**Date of next review: January 2019**