

Cyber Bullying Policy

What is 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 who cannot easily defend him or herself."¹

Seven categories of cyber bullying have been identified:

- Text message bullying involves sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort.
- Picture/video-clip bullying via mobile phone cameras is used to make the person being bullied feel threatened or embarrassed, with images usually sent to other people. 'Happy slapping' involves filming and sharing physical attacks.
- Phone call bullying via mobile phone uses silent calls or abusive messages. Sometimes the bullied person's phone is stolen and used to harass others, who then think the phone owner is responsible. As with all mobile phone bullying, the perpetrators often disguise their numbers, sometimes using someone else's phone to avoid being identified.
- Email bullying uses email to send bullying or threatening messages, often using a pseudonym for anonymity or using someone else's name to pin the blame on them.
- Chat room bullying involves sending menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room.
- Bullying through instant messaging (IM) is an Internet-based form of bullying where children and young people are sent unpleasant messages as they conduct real-time conversations online.
- Bullying via websites includes the use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal polling sites. There has also been a significant increase in social networking sites for young people, which can provide new opportunities for cyber bullying.

What can schools do about it?

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

School Governors, Head teachers and schools have a duty to ensure that:

- bullying via mobile phone or the Internet is included in their mandatory anti-bullying policies, that these policies are regularly updated, and that teachers
- have sufficient knowledge to deal with cyber bullying in school².

¹ Research commissioned by the Anti-Bullying Alliance from Goldsmiths College, University of London

² The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 require schools to have anti bullying policies; the anti-bullying policy should include or refer to a cyber bullying policy. The ICT policy should also refer to cyberbullying

Porthcawl Primary School 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
- clear policies are set about the use of mobile phones at school and at other times when young people are under the school's authority
Internet blocking technologies are continually updated and harmful sites blocked
- they work with pupils and parents to make sure new communications technologies are used safely, taking account of local and national guidance and good practice
- security systems are in place to prevent images and information about pupils and staff being accessed improperly from outside school
- they work with police and other partners on managing cyber bullying.

ICT and Mobile Phone Policy

If a cyber bullying incident directed at a child occurs using e-mail or mobile phone technology, either inside or outside school time, Porthcawl Primary School

School will take the following steps:

- Advise the child not to respond to the message
- Refer to relevant policies, e.g. e-safety/acceptable use , anti-bullying and PSHE and apply appropriate sanctions
- Secure and preserve any evidence
- Notify parents of the children involved
- Consider informing the police depending on the severity or repetitious nature of the offence. The school recognises that some cyber bullying activities could be a criminal offence under a range of different laws including: the Protection from Harassment Act 1997; the Malicious Communication Act 1988; section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 and the Public Order Act 1986
- **Inform the LA e-safety officer or equivalent**

If malicious or threatening comments are posted on an Internet site or Social Networking Site about a pupil or member of staff, Porthcawl primary School will also:

- Inform and request that the comments be removed if the site is administered externally
- Secure and preserve any evidence
- Endeavour to trace the origin and inform the police as appropriate.
- **Inform the LA e-safety officer or equivalent**

Code of Conduct

The Porthcawl primary School code of conduct references our approach and attitudes towards cyber bullying.

EXEMPLAR CODE OF CONDUCT

Always respect others -be careful what you say online and what images you send

THINK before you send. Whatever you send could be made public very quickly and could stay online forever

Treat your password like your toothbrush – keep it to yourself.

Only give your mobile phone number or personal website address to trusted friends

Serious bullying should be reported to the police – for example threats of a physical or sexual nature

If you can, make a note of the time and date bullying messages or images were sent and note any details about the sender

Do not retaliate or reply

Keep and save any offending emails, text messages, images or online conversations

Make sure you tell:

An adult you trust or call a helpline like

Childline on 0800 1111 in confidence or CEOPS

www.ceop.gov.uk/reportabuse/index.asp

The service provider.

Check the mobile phone company or internet provider. They maybe able to track the bully down.

Your school, your teacher or another member of the school staff.

CYBER BULLYING RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

www.childnet-int.org has a DVD for secondary schools about keeping safe in online chat rooms.. Order at www.childnet-int.org/order.

Childnet International also advises on Internet safety and has a range of leaflets for children and parents in a number of languages, including Hindi, Punjabi and Maltese.

www.cybersmartcurriculum.org has lesson plans for teachers on dealing with online bullies.

There's plenty of online advice on how to react to cyber bullying. For example, www.kidscape.org The Kidscape booklet 'Don't Bully Me!' gives advice to primary school children on what to do if they are bullied.

www.wiredsafety.org have some useful tips.

Stop receiving text messages for a while by turning off incoming messages for a couple of days. This might stop the person texting by making them believe the number's changed. To find out how to do this, visit www.wiredsafety.org. If the bullying persists, you can change your phone number. Ask your mobile service provider (such as Orange, O2, Vodafone or T-Mobile).

Secondary school teachers can download an information pack from www.stoptextbully.com including a classroom quiz, poster and top tips to help tackle cyber bullying. It is an interactive website that helps young people tackle mobile phone and online bullying and prevent it ever happening to them. There's advice for pupils, parents, carers and teachers, along with a fun quiz that highlights the issues.

Becta

The British Educational Communications and Technology Agency. Their website has invaluable information on setting up school Internet safety policies and how to communicate them to parents.

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)

Set up by the Government, the CEOP website helps adults get to grips with new and emerging technologies popular with young people. It includes advice on how to report cyber bullying, sexual abuse on line and the dangers of viruses

Don't suffer in silence

This Government website has a short anti-bullying video featuring stars like Rio Ferdinand and the Sugababes, a downloadable charter and advice for pupils, teachers and parents.

Thinkuknow.co.uk

Information from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre on how to stay safe online. It includes details of the CEOP training courses. It provides interactive resources for KS1-KS4, teachers and parents

Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT)

Made up of police forces around the world, working together to fight online child abuse. The site includes advice, information and support for adults and children.