



Policy for

Cyber Bullying

Prepared by:	Adopted by Board of Directors	Signed	Renewal Date (3 year cycle)
		----- Chair of Board of Directors	

Cyber bullying is the use of a mobile phone or the internet to deliberately upset another person. We have a responsibility to ensure that cyber bullying does not take place in our academy by ensuring pupils, academy personnel and parents and carers understand what it is and how it can be prevented.



Cyber bullying is highly intrusive and the hurt it causes can be very severe. As it leaves no physical scars, cyber bullying is not easy to detect by a parent/ carer or a teacher.

Cyber bullying can take place anywhere and can target pupils and academy personnel. There are many types of cyber bullying such as text messages, picture/video clips, mobile phone calls, emails, chat room bullying, instant messaging and the use of websites to convey threats, intimidation, harassment etc.

We wish to work closely with the Academy Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

Aims

- To ensure pupils, academy personnel and parents/ carers understand what cyber bullying is and how it can be prevented.
- To have in place procedures to prevent incidents of cyber bullying.
- To have in place effective procedures to deal with all reported incidents of cyber bullying.

The LGB has:

- appointed a member of staff to be responsible for ICT;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Principal to ensure all academy personnel and visitors to the academy are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring policies are made available to parents / carers
- nominated a link governor to liaise with the ICT subject leader and to report back to the LGB;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy



The Principal will:

- ensure all academy personnel, pupils and parents / carers are aware of and comply with this policy;
- work closely with the ICT subject leader to review how the academy network is monitored
- ensure the Acceptable Use Policy outlines how the ICT suite and the Internet should be used;
- provide support for those pupils and academy personnel who may be victims of cyber bullying;
- deal with all incidents of cyber bullying quickly and effectively;
- consider the use of legal powers under the Education Act 2006 that allow him/her to regulate behaviour of pupils when they are off-site;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- annually report to the LGB on the success and development of this policy



The ICT Subject Leader will:

- work closely with the Principal to ensure that:
 - the Acceptable Use Policy is up to date
 - the academy network is monitored
 - information is provided for pupils and parents
- provide guidance and support to all staff;
- ensure cyber bullying is discussed during staff meetings and inset days;
- ensure cyberbullying is discussed with pupils through class discussions;
- invite pupils to consider the effects of cyberbullying;
- help review anti-bullying and pupil behaviour and discipline policies;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- review and monitor;
- annually report to the LGB on the success and development of this policy

The Nominated Governor will:



- work closely with the Principal and the Subject Leader
- ensure this policy and other linked policies are up to date;
- ensure that everyone connected with the academy is aware of this policy;
- report to the LGB every term;
- annually report to the LGB on the success and development of this policy.

Academy personnel will:

- comply with all the afore mentioned aspects of this policy;
- be alert to the dangers of cyber bullying;
- report all incidents of cyber bullying to a member of the Senior Leadership Team;
- ensure that pupils have access to the internet under the conditions laid down by the academy's E Safety policy
- regularly remind pupils of:
 - the safe use of the ICT suite;
 - the Acceptable Use Policy;
 - the need to report any incident of cyber bullying to a member of the academy personnel;
- inform pupils of the dangers of cyber bullying through PSHE, collective worship, anti-bullying week, E Safety Week activities etc;
- be advised not to give their mobile phone numbers or email addresses to any pupil
- be advised not to accept as a friend any pupil on to their Face Book page
- seek the views of pupils in monitoring and evaluating this policy



Pupils will:

- comply with all the afore mentioned aspects of this policy;
- sign an Acceptable Use of ICT contract;
- be encouraged to report all incidents of cyber bullying to a member of the academy personnel;
- not bring mobile phones to the academy unless agreed with a teacher for a specific purpose. If there is a need for a pupil to bring a mobile phone to the academy, the academy will place it in a safe place until it is needed. If mobile phones are brought into the academy without permission, they will be confiscated and only returned to a parent or carer.

The Academy Council will be involved in:

- determining this policy with the LGB;
- discussing improvements to this policy during the academic year;
- reviewing the effectiveness of this policy with the LGB



Parents / Carers will:

- be made aware of this policy;
- comply with this policy;
- sign an Acceptable Use of ICT contract;
- be encouraged to discuss the Acceptable Use of ICT contract with their children;
- report all incidents of cyber bullying involving their child to the academy

Recording and Reporting

- All reported incidents are investigated and dealt with.
- Parents carers are informed of all events and what actions have been taken.
- Records will be kept of all incidents and their outcomes.

Dealing with incidents

The Principal will:

- deal with all incidents of cyber bullying quickly and effectively;
- impose sanctions as outlined in the academy's Behaviour policy on any pupil identified as being the bully;
- confiscate any mobile phone if brought to the academy without permission
- contact the police and social services if the cyber bullying is sufficiently severe;
- keep parents / carers informed of the academy's actions

Counselling and Support

- Counselling and support mechanisms are in place to help those who have been bullied.
- All perpetrators of bullying are given time to discuss why they have bullied and why their actions were wrong.

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- the Academy Handbook/Prospectus
- the Academy website
- the Staff Handbook
- meetings with parents / carers such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- academy events
- meetings with academy personnel
- communications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of half term newsletters
- reports such annual report to parents and Principal reports to the LGB
- information displays in the main academy entrance



Monitoring the effectiveness of the policy

Annually (or when the need arises) the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by the Subject Leader, the Principal and the nominated governor and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the Governors.