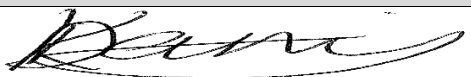


St Benedict's Catholic High School

ANTI CYBERBULLYING POLICY (Addendum to Behaviour Policy) 2024-2025

Approved by ¹	
Name:	Kayleigh Daniels
Position:	Chair of Governors
Signed:	
Date:	November 2024
Review date ² :	September 2025

ANTI CYBERBULLYING POLICY

(Addendum to Behaviour Policy)

Rationale

Young people have fully embraced the use of information and communication technologies to maintain contact with friends and make new ones. They send emails, create their own websites, post intimate personal news in blogs (online interactive diaries), send text messages and images via smartphones, messages each other through IMs (instant messages), chat in chatrooms, post to discussion boards, and seek out new friends in community sites.

While most interactions are positive, there are increasing reports of these technologies being used to harass and intimidate others. This has become known as cyberbullying.

Definition

Cyberbullying is when someone is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed, or otherwise targeted by another child, pre-teen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. It has to be a minor on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor.

Children recognise it as the use of Information and Communications Technology, particularly mobile phones and the internet, to deliberately upset someone else.

Cyberbullying is bullying. It has the same consequences!

Cyberbullying takes place between children; but also across different age groups.

www.stopcyberbullying.org
www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Policy

St Benedict's Catholic High School is committed to developing a safe environment where the students act respectfully and positively towards each other in acceptable and non-threatening ways.

Procedure

Staff here have the responsibility to ensure that:

- all forms of cyberbullying are prohibited
- staff are aware of cyberbullying and are able to identify and look for signs of occurrence among the students (see Appendix 1)
- students have been made aware of the consequences of cyberbullying in St Benedict's
- a code of conduct is in use for technology, including computers and mobile phones, whilst on the school premises
- all cases of cyberbullying are reported to the Tutor and responded to promptly. These incidents are logged and appropriate action taken. For support with this process, tutors may seek advice from their Director of Learning/ Heads of Year and/or the Senior Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Standards.
- there is supervision of technology that is effective for monitoring and deterring cyberbullying
- students are supported in cases of cyberbullying. (See Appendix 2)

Students here have a responsibility to ensure that they:

- do not participate in cyberbullying
- do not use mobile phones, cameras or other digital devices to record audio and visual material that is not authorised as part of the school curriculum program
- do not breach the privacy of students, staff and members of the school community through any unauthorised recording or filming
- do not disseminate inappropriate information through digital media or other means
- report incidents of cyberbullying to a member of staff, or by using the Safety Hub
- advise students being victimised by cyberbullying to talk to an adult
- offer to speak to an adult on behalf of the student who is being victimised by cyberbullying.

Strategies

St Benedict's deploys the following strategies to inform and advise students regarding cyberbullying:-










- posters
- assemblies
- advice from the police regarding the legalities of cyberbullying and the law
- computer science lessons – see the computer science curriculum e-safety overview
- supervision in the library
- St Benedict's Safety Hub phone app
- Promoted content via EduLink
- Promoted content via Microsoft Teams channel

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring of progress towards implementation of this policy through termly meetings by the Online Safety Lead, Senior Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour and Standards) and the Designated Safeguarding Officer.

How is Technology Used to Bully?

Technology can be used both positively and negatively. The table below explores the range of ways today's technology can be used.

Technology:	Great for:	Examples of misuse:
 Mobile phones	Keeping in touch by voice or text, taking and sending pictures and film, listening to music, playing games, going online and sending emails. Useful in emergency situations and for allowing children a greater sense of independence.	Sending nasty calls or text messages, including threats, intimidation, harassment. Taking and sharing humiliating images. Videoing other people being harassed and sending these to other phones or internet sites.
 Instant Messenger (IM)	Text or voice chatting live with friends online. A quick and effective way of keeping in touch even while working on other things.	Sending nasty messages or content. Using someone else's account to forward rude or mean messages via their contacts list.
 Chatrooms and message boards	Groups of people around the world can text or voice chat live about common interests. For young people, this can be an easy way to meet new people and explore issues which they are too shy to talk about in person.	Sending nasty or threatening anonymous messages. Groups of people deciding to pick on or ignore individuals. Making friends under false pretences – people pretending to be someone they're not in order to get personal information that they can misuse in a range of ways – e.g. by spreading secrets or blackmailing.
 Email	Sending electronic letters, pictures and other files quickly and cheaply anywhere in the world.	Sending nasty or threatening messages. Forwarding unsuitable content including images and video clips, or sending computer viruses. Accessing someone else's account, e.g. to forward personal emails or delete emails.
 Webcams	Taking pictures or recording messages. Being able to see and talk to someone live on your computer screen. Bringing far-off places to life or video conferencing.	Making and sending inappropriate content. Persuading or threatening young people to act in inappropriate ways. Using inappropriate recordings to manipulate young people.
 Social network sites	Socialising with your friends and making new ones within online communities. Allowing young people to be creative online, even publishing online music. Personalising homepages and profiles, creating and uploading content.	Posting nasty comments, humiliating images / video. Accessing another person's account details and sending unpleasant messages, deleting information or making private information public. Groups of people picking on individuals by excluding them. Creating fake profiles to pretend to be someone else, e.g. to bully, harass or get the person into trouble.
 Video hosting sites	Accessing useful educational, entertaining and original creative video content and uploading your own.	Posting embarrassing, humiliating film of someone.
 Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs)	School site, usually available from home and school, set up for tracking and recording student assignments, tests and activities, with message boards, chat and IM.	Posting inappropriate messages or images. Hacking into someone else's account to post inappropriate comments or delete schoolwork.
 Gaming sites, consoles and virtual worlds	<p>Live text or voice chat during online gaming between players across the world, or on handheld consoles with people in the same local area.</p> <p>Virtual worlds let users design their own avatars – a figure that represent them in the virtual world.</p>	<p>Name-calling, making abusive / derogatory remarks. Players may pick on weaker or less experienced users, repeatedly killing their characters.</p> <p>Forwarding unwanted messages to other devices in the immediate vicinity.</p>

Supporting the person being bullied

- Give reassurance that the person has done the right thing by telling someone, refer to any existing pastoral support/procedures and inform parents.
- Advise on next steps:
- Make sure the person knows not to retaliate or return the message.
- Ask the person to think about what information they have in the public domain.
 - Help the person to keep relevant evidence for any investigation (eg by not deleting messages they've received, and by taking screen capture shots and noting web addresses of online cyberbullying instances).
 - Check the person understands simple ways to prevent it from happening again eg by changing contact details, blocking contacts or leaving a chatroom.
- Take action to contain the incident when content has been circulated:
 - If you know who the person responsible is, ask them to remove the content.
 - Contact the host (eg the social networking site) to make a report to get the content taken down.
 - Use disciplinary powers to confiscate phones that are being used to cyberbully. Ask the pupil to tell you who they have sent messages on to.
 - In cases of illegal content, contact the police, who can determine what needs to be kept for evidential purposes.

Cyberbullying and Safe Internet Use

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying can be defined as the use of Information and Communications Technology, particularly mobile phones and the internet, to deliberately upset someone else.

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Cyberbullying takes place between children; but also across different age groups.

If you are being bullied, no matter how, let someone know.



Safe Internet Use (SMART Rules)

S Safe

Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information - such as your name, email, phone number, home address or school name - to people you don't trust online.

M Meeting

Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.

A Accepting

Accepting emails, IM messages or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems - they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

R Reliable

Someone online may be lying about who they are, and information you find on the internet may not be reliable.

T Tell

Tell your parents, carers or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried. You can report online abuse to the police.