



Stokes Wood

Policy for the Prevention of Cyber Bullying

Please read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Online Safety Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Good Behaviour Policy

Rationale

At Stokes Wood Primary School we believe that all members of our school community have the right to be treated with respect in a supportive, caring and safe environment.

Mobile, internet and wireless technologies have increased the pace of communication and brought benefits to users worldwide; but their popularity provides increasing opportunities for misuse through 'cyber bullying'. School staff, young people and parents have to be constantly vigilant and work together to prevent this form of bullying and tackle it whenever it occurs.

What is Cyber Bullying?

The use of digital technology and the internet provides intrusive ways for bullies to target others. Cyberbullying can involve pupils receiving threatening or disturbing messages, possibly from anonymous callers or people that they are familiar with. Cyberbullying can happen beyond the school day, into homes and private spaces, with a potentially bigger audience, as people forward content on.

Cyberbullying can happen on any digital device and can be separated into the following categories:

- Direct messaging – 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), spam messaging, etc. Many modern apps use a 'DM (Direct Message)' feature.
- Picture/video clips – via mobile phone, tablets and VR headsets cameras or apps such as TikTok, Snapchat, WhatsApp and Instagram – images sent to others to make them feel threatened or embarrassed.
- Mobile phone calls and smart watches – silent calls or abusive messages; or stealing a phone and/or device and using it to harass others, to make them believe the person being bullied is responsible.

- Emails – threatening or bullying emails, often using a pseudonym or somebody else’s name.
- Forum bullying – menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in web-based chat rooms - such as Discord, Reddit, Monkey, 4chan, Telegram etc. which are often unregulated
- Real-time conversations – unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real time conversations online for example using gaming headsets, in-game voice chat, facetime, WhatsApp etc.
- Bullying via websites – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal ‘own web space’ sites such as Twitter (X), Instagram, TikTok etc.

Technology allows the user to bully anonymously or from an unknown location 24 hours a day. Cyber bullying leaves no physical scars and therefore can be less evident to adults, but it is highly intrusive to the person being bullied, often taking place within the safety of their own home.

We believe that every individual in our school community has a duty to report all incidents of cyber-bullying whether it happens to themselves or to another person.

Preventing Cyber Bullying

- We have a Code of Practice which promotes safe internet etiquette; this is agreed and signed by all parents/carers.
- Pupils at Stokes Wood Primary School are not encouraged to bring mobile phones into school or on a school trip. Any mobiles brought into school must be left in the school office.
- As part of the Computing and PSHE curriculum, pupils are taught about safe internet etiquette and the risks of communication technologies, the consequences of their misuse and how to use them safely.
- We constantly remind pupils about how to use the internet safely before they use any electronic device within school.
- We raise awareness throughout the year during the safer internet focus day/week in February and during anti-bullying week in November.
- All online communications used on the school site or as part of school activities off-site are filtered using iboss software which is maintained by Ekte.
- We advise our pupils never to give out personal contact details online or post photographs of themselves on sites.
- We advise our pupils that they must not respond to abusive or spam emails, text messages or phone calls and must always tell an adult immediately.
- We will work with outside agencies to educate pupils and manage any incidents of cyber bullying.

April 2024

When Cyber Bullying occurs

At Stokes Wood 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 reoccurrence of actions.

The Education Act 2011 amended the power in the Education Act 1996 to allow the Headteacher to authorise a member of staff to:

- Examine data or files on electronic devices and
- Delete these (where there is good reason)

If a suspected offence has been committed the Headteacher will pass the device to the police.

When Cyber Bullying occurs, it will be recorded 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 for individuals.

Recording and Monitoring

All incidents of bullying will be recorded on CPOMs by a member of staff. The schools anti-bullying lead (Miss Williams) and the school's online safety lead (Mr Smith) will follow up and review any incidents. Cyber bullying incidents are reported on a termly basis to Governors as part of the Headteacher's report.

On an annual basis this policy will be reviewed by Governors as part of their annual review of policies.

Key websites Pupils and Parents:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/parents/yourchildshealthandsafety/worriedabout/DG_10015786

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/types-bullying/bullying-cyberbullying/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

www.kidscape.org.uk

This will be reviewed annually with Health and Safety Policies.

April 2024