Stokes Wood

Policy for the Prevention of Cyber Bullying

<u>Rationale</u>

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. This policy is designed to be read alongside the Anti-Bullying, Good Behaviour and E-Safety Policies. In line with the above policies we believe that every individual in our school community has a duty to report all incidents of bullying whether it happens to themselves or to another person.

<u>What is Cyber Bullying?</u>

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.

Research commissioned by the Anti-Bullying Alliance from Goldsmiths College, University of London, identifies the following categories of cyberbullying:

- **Direct messaging** –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' feature.
- **Picture/video clips –** via mobile phone cameras or apps such TikTok, Snapchat, Whatsapp, Instagram – images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed.
- **Mobile phone calls –** silent calls or abusive messages; or stealing the victim's phone and using it to harass others, to make them believe the victim 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, Omegle, 4chan, Telegram etc – that are often unregulated

- **Real-time conversations** – unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real time conversations online using for example: 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 Facebook, Twitter, 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 so it is perhaps less evident to a parent or teacher but it is highly intrusive to the victim, often taking place within the safety of their own home.
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.

<u>School Policy</u>

- We have a Code of Practice which promotes safe internet etiquette; this is agreed and signed by all parents/carers.

- Pupils at Stokes Wood School are not encouraged to bring into school or take a mobile phone with them on a school trip. Any mobiles brought into school should 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 remind pupils about safer internet use during the Safer Internet focus day/week in February and during Anti-bullying week in November.

- All e-communications used on the school site or as part of school activities off-site are monitored.

- 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 should not respond to abusive emails, text messages or phone calls and should always tell an adult.

- Security systems are in place to prevent images and information about pupils and staff being accessed improperly from outside the school.

- We will work with other outside agencies to manage cyber bullying.

<u>When Cyber Bullying occurs</u>

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.
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<u>Monitoring</u>

All incidents of bullying will be recorded by the Assistant Headteacher/ Headteacher and 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.

Advice for Parents (websites)

www.bullying.co.uk

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

www.direct.gov.uk/en/youngpeople/healthandrelationships/bullying/DG_10031370

www.barnardos.org.uk/CommissionUs

www.**kids**cape.org.uk

Anti-Bullying Alliance

Beyond Bullying – Welcome to the Beyond Bullying website