



Anti-Cyber-Bullying Policy

Glynn NS aims to ensure that children are safe and feel safe from bullying, harassment and discrimination. This school is committed to teaching children the knowledge and skills to be able to use ICT effectively, safely and responsibly.

UNDERSTANDING CYBER-BULLYING:

- Cyber bullying is the use of ICT to abuse another person
- It can take place anywhere and involve many people
- Anybody can be targeted including pupils and school staff
- It can include threats, intimidation, harassment, cyber-stalking, vilification, defamation, exclusion, peer rejection, impersonation, unauthorized publication of private information or images etc.
- While bullying involves a repetition of unwelcome behaviour the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools, September 2013, states:
2.1.3. In addition, in the context of these procedures placing a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.

WHAT IS CYBER-BULLYING?

There are many types of cyber-bullying. The more common types are:

Text messages – can be threatening or cause discomfort.

Picture/video-clips via mobile phone cameras – images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed

Mobile phone – silent calls, abusive messages or stealing the victim's phone or any device and using it to harass others to make them believe the victim is responsible

E-mails – unwelcoming, threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else's name or account

Social media bullying – menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are using social media

Instant messaging (IM) – unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real-time conversations online.

Bullying via websites – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online sites.

Explanation of Slang Terms used when referring to cyber-bullying activity

1. 'Flaming': Online fights using electronic messages with angry and vulgar language
2. 'Harassment': Repeatedly sending offensive, rude, and insulting messages
3. 'Cyber Stalking': Repeatedly sending messages that include threats of harm or are highly intimidating or engaging in other on-line activities that make a person afraid for his or her own safety
4. 'Denigration': 'Dissing' someone online. Sending or posting cruel gossip or rumors about a person to damage his or her reputation or friendships
5. 'Impersonation': Pretending to be someone else and sending or posting material online that makes someone look bad, gets her/him in trouble or danger, or damages her/his reputation or



Anti-Cyber-Bullying Policy

friendships

6. 'Outing and Trickery': Tricking someone into revealing secret or embarrassing information which is then shared online

7. 'Exclusion': Intentionally excluding someone from an on-line group, like a 'buddy list'.

This list is not exhaustive and the terms used continue to change.

AIMS OF POLICY:

- To ensure that pupils, staff and parents understand what cyber bullying is, the possible legal implications for students involved and how it can be combatted
- To ensure that practices and procedures are agreed to prevent incidents of cyber-bullying
- To ensure that reported incidents of cyber bullying are dealt with effectively and quickly.

PROCEDURES TO PREVENT CYBER-BULLYING:

- Staff, pupils, parents and Board of Management (BoM) will be made aware of issues surrounding cyber bullying through the use of appropriate awareness-raising exercises
- Pupils will learn about cyber bullying through Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), friendship week activities and other curriculum projects
- The school will engage a speaker to facilitate a workshop on cyber bullying for senior classes and parents.
- Staff CPD (Continuous Professional Development) will learn about current technologies.
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on how to combat cyber bullying
- Senior pupils will sign their own Acceptable Use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) contract as part of Stay Safe
- Parents will be expected to sign an Acceptable Use of ICT contract prior to enrolment and to discuss its meaning with their children
- Pupils and parents will be urged to report all incidents of cyber bullying to the school
- All reports of cyber bullying will be investigated, recorded, stored in the Principal's office and monitored regularly
- Procedures in our school Anti-Bullying Policy shall apply
- The Gardaí will be contacted in cases of actual or suspected illegal content
- This policy will be reviewed annually. Pupils, parents and staff will be involved in reviewing and revising this policy and any related school procedure

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Board of Management on 27th June 2017. It will be reviewed again in September 2018, or earlier if deemed appropriate.

Signed

Rev. P. Stafford PP
Chairperson BoM