

**ST. GREGORY'S R.C. JMI**

**GOVERNORS STATUTORY POLICY**



**Anti Cyber Bullying Policy**

**27<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

The school recognises that technology plays an important and positive role in everyone's lives, both educationally and socially. It is committed to helping all members of the school community to understand both the benefits and the risks, and to equip children with the knowledge and skills to be able to use technology safely and responsibly.

**The aims of this policy are to ensure that:**

- we safeguard the pupils in the real and virtual world
- pupils, staff and parents are educated to understand what cyberbullying is and what its consequences can be
- knowledge, policies and procedures are in place to prevent incidents of cyberbullying in school or within the school community
- we have effective measures to deal effectively with cases of cyberbullying
- we monitor the effectiveness of prevention measures

**What is cyber bullying?**

There are many types of cyber-bullying.

The more common include ...

1. Text 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)
2. Picture/video-clips via mobile phone cameras - images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed.
3. 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.
4. Emails — threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else's name.
5. Chatroom bullying — menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in web-based chatroom.
6. Instant messaging (IM) — unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real time conversations online using programs such as MSM (Microsoft Messenger) or Yahoo Chat
7. Bullying via websites — use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal "own web space" sites such as Bebo and

Here at St Gregory's we take cyber bullying very seriously.

## **Prevention of cyber bullying**

- Staff will be trained to identify signs of cyber bullying and will be helped to keep informed about the technologies that children commonly use.
- Pupils will be informed about cyber bullying through E safety sessions delivered by the class teachers, through pastoral care sessions and other workshops that may take place throughout the year (e.g. Internet safety week, Kidsafe programme etc. )
- Pupils and staff are expected to comply with the school's Acceptable Computer Use Policy.
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on cyber bullying throughout the year

## **Publishing sanctions:**

It is also important that children and parents are alerted to the school policy on dealing with cyber-bullying as it becomes evident, with the understanding that it will not be tolerated in school on any level.

Pupils will be reminded of the importance of a safe environment and how to behave responsibly when using computing.

## **Logging all cyber-bullying incidents:**

We will keep appropriate records of any incidents of cyber-bullying, alongside wider bullying, and monitor our prevention activities in connection with this.

We will remind children of the importance of discussing any concerns they have with a member of staff, in confidence. Similarly staff and parents should be aware of the non-verbal signs of cyber-bullying, such as anxiety, depression or fear that would otherwise be unusual in a child. This may also involve subtle comments or changes in relationships with friends.

## **Promoting the positive use of technology:**

Computing is increasingly recognised as an essential life skill, and embedding technology across the curriculum and in learning and teaching delivery provides opportunities and benefits for both learners and staff members. We will work with children and staff to promote e-safety:

Never give passwords to other people

Change passwords regularly

Do not upload images of children to websites under any circumstances

Ensure pupil data held on computers is password protected

Ensure firewalls and security centre updates are working effectively.

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:-

Date:- 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Head Teacher)      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors)      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To be reviewed July 2020.