

THE OLD BOROUGH NATIONAL SCHOOL

ANTI-CYBER BULLYING POLICY



The Old Borough 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.

What is Cyber Bullying?

- Cyber bullying is the use of ICT (on phones, online or through gaming platforms) 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.

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

1. **Text messages** – can be 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, 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. **Chat room bullying** – menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room

6. **Instant messaging (IM)** – unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real-time conversations online using social media apps.

7. **Bullying via websites** – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal social networking sites such as You Tube, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok etc.

8. **Exclusion** – Blocking an individual from a popular online group or community, such as a school or class group.

9. **Personal Humiliation** – Posting images or videos intended to embarrass or humiliate, sharing personal communications, such as emails or texts with a wider audience than was intended by the sender.

10. **False Reporting** – Making false reports to the service provider about other users.

11. **Participating in the forwarding of any of the above.**

Aims of the Policy:

- To ensure that pupils, staff and parents understand what cyber bullying is
- 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 should be made aware of issues surrounding cyber bullying.
- Incidences of cyber bullying should be reported to the school and the

principal will be informed.

- Staff CPD (Continuous Professional Development) will assist in learning about current technologies.
- Pupils will learn about cyber bullying through Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and other curriculum projects.
- Parents and pupils from 1st class upwards will sign an 'Acceptable Use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) contract' annually.
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on how to combat cyber bullying.
- Staff, parents and Board of Management will be involved in reviewing and revising this policy and school procedures annually.
- Reports of cyber bullying will be investigated and recorded.
- A member of An Garda Síochána will speak to 5th and 6th classes annually about web safety.
- Procedures in our school Anti-Bullying Policy shall apply.
- An Garda Síochána will be notified in any case where there is a child protection issue.
- This policy will be reviewed annually.

Information for Pupils:

If you, or another pupil are being bullied by phone or online:

- Remember, bullying is never your fault. It can be stopped and it can usually be traced.
- Don't ignore the bullying. Tell someone you trust, such as a teacher or parent or call an advice line.
- Try to keep calm. If you are frightened, try to show it as little as possible. Don't get angry, it will only make the person bullying you more likely to continue.
- Don't give out your personal details online – if you're in a chat room, watch what you say about where you live, the school you go to, your email address etc. All these things can help someone who wants to harm you to build up a picture about you.
- Keep and save any bullying emails, messages or images. Then you can show them to a parent or teacher as evidence.

- If you can, make a note of the time and date bullying messages or images were sent, and note any details about the sender.
- There's plenty of online advice on how to react to cyber bullying. For example:

www.reachout.com and www.wiredsafety.org have some useful tips.

Text/video messaging/direct messaging:

- You can easily stop receiving text messages by blocking the number.
- If the bullying persists, you can change your phone number. Speak to your parents/guardian about this.
- Don't reply to abusive messages. Most apps have a method of reporting these instances.
- Don't delete messages from cyber bullies. You don't have to read them, but you should keep them as evidence.

Useful Websites:

www.spunout.ie

www.childnet.int.org

www.antibullying.net

www.kidsmart.org.uk/beingsmart

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bullying

www.internetsafety.ie

www.childline.ie/index.php/support/bullying/1395

www.chatdanger.com

www.kidpower.org

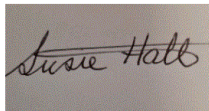
www.sticksandstones.ie

www.abc.tcd.ie

www.garda.ie

www.hotline.ie

Signed:



Date: 23rd September 2024

Susie Hall

Acting Chairman, Board of Management