



JORDANSTOWN SCHOOL

*A specialist school for children who
are deaf or visually impaired*

ANTI-CYBERBULLYING POLICY

November 2019

Title	Anti-Cyberbullying Policy
Summary	Guidance for all stakeholders regarding: a definition of cyberbullying; the procedures for responding to instances of cyberbullying
Purpose	To ensure an effective response to cyberbullying by the whole School community
Current Operational Date	November 2019
Version Number	1
Supersedes previous	N/A
Author	Dr C Scully, Principal
Frequency of Review by Author	As required, no more than 3 years
Frequency of Review by Board of Governors	Every 3 years
Date last Reviewed and Approved by Board of Governors	N/A
To be posted on School website	Yes
Next Review Date	November 2022

Since cyberbullying is a form of bullying, this policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Anti-Bullying Policy.

1. Cyberbullying can be defined as the use of Information and Communications Technology deliberately to upset someone else. It differs from other forms of bullying in a number of ways including:
 - The scale and scope of cyberbullying can be greater than other forms of bullying.
 - Victims may feel continually threatened and may have no place or time when they feel safe.
 - The person being bullied may not know the identity of the bully.
 - Evidence may be readily available.
2. Cyberbullying is viewed by the School as a Safeguarding concern and as such will be treated with the utmost seriousness by the School. Any reports of cyberbullying by or against a pupil, a member of staff (paid or voluntary), a governor or family members of any of the above, and whether in School or outside School, will be investigated thoroughly. The information which will be used in deciding any course of action will be the School's Anti-Bullying and Positive Behaviour Policies, the School's Staff Code of Professional Conduct, and the relevant laws (see Appendix 1).
3. The School will provide all pupils with information sessions on cyber safety. This will include how to report offensive material online. In particular, all pupils will be given Internet Safety information at the start of the new school year and around Safer Internet Day in February. See Appendix 2 for some useful web sites which deal with Internet safety.
4. The School will use a range of means to inform and support parents regarding cyber safety issues. This will include information on the school website and updates via email or social media.
5. The parents of all pupils of the School will be required to sign an Acceptable Use Policy regarding the use of School computer equipment by their son(s)/daughter(s). This will include, but not be limited to, information regarding anti-cyberbullying.
6. The information provided for both pupils and parents will include the advice that any evidence of cyberbullying should not be deleted but should be retained as evidence.
7. Where an instance of cyberbullying takes place by a pupil in School, on buses or taxis to or from school or at a School event, the School will take appropriate action according to the School's Anti-Bullying and Positive Behaviour Policies. This may take the form of a verbal warning, a detention, withdrawal from circulation or a suspension which may, in extreme cases, lead to permanent exclusion.

8. For all instances of cyberbullying outside School by a pupil of the School, the School will seek evidence of the cyberbullying and will inform the parents of the pupil who posted the information and the parents (or other school if appropriate) of the targeted child (or if an adult, the adult him/herself). This will generally require the parents of the pupil who posted the information to come in to School so that the material may be viewed. The School will regard a direct threat to any member of the School community, or content which brings the School into disrepute, as a serious disciplinary matter and will respond in line with the School's Anti-Bullying and/or Positive Behaviour Policies.
9. Where an instance of cyberbullying takes place outside School, by a pupil of another school against a pupil of Jordanstown School, the School will make all possible efforts to identify and inform the other school. The parents of the targeted pupil will also be informed.
10. In all instances of cyberbullying by a pupil of the School, the School will seek the co-operation of pupils, and if necessary, parents and Internet/mobile phone hosts, to have the material removed.
11. Where a parent exercises his or her right to involve the police in an alleged instance of cyberbullying, the School will co-operate fully with the police and will discharge its duties in compliance with the current laws.
12. Where the cyberbullying is judged by the School to be sufficiently serious, the School may refer the matter to the PSNI. Repeat offences may fall into this category.
13. Pastoral support, including counselling by the School Counsellor, will be offered to any pupil who is a target of cyberbullying.
14. Anti-cyberbullying guidance will be given by the School to any pupil who is confirmed as having engaged in cyberbullying. The help of outside agencies, including the School Counsellor, may be sought.
15. A record of all reports of cyberbullying, and of ensuing investigations and actions, will be maintained in school.

Appendix 1: Current Laws Which Address Cyberbullying

1. Malicious Communications Order 1988
2. Section 1 Malicious Communications Act 1988
3. Section 4 Protection from Harassment Act 1997
4. Section 127 Communications Act 2003
5. Section 16 Offences against the Person Act 1861
6. Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights
7. Defamation Act 2013

Appendix 2: Useful Web Sites Which Deal With Internet Safety

1. www.ceop.police.uk
2. www.thinkuknow.co.uk
3. www.internetmatters.org
4. www.connectsafely.org
5. www.cybersmile.org