



## **Anti- Cyberbullying Policy.**

Scoil Bhríde, Shelagh reserves the right to take action against bullying perpetrated outside the school which spills over into the school.

### **Key measures to combat cyber bullying**

- This Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy.
- Students will be informed about cyber bullying in the course of their education at the school.
- A speaker will be asked to visit the school once a year to talk about cyber bullying (in the senior classes).
- Serious cyber bullying issues may be reported to the Gardaí.
- Teachers/facilitator will dedicate a standalone lesson to deal with the issue of cyber bullying annually.
- Staff and parents will periodically be invited to a talk on bullying to include cyber bullying.
- Students and staff are expected to comply with the school's policy on the use of computers in the School. (Acceptable use of the Internet Policy).
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on cyber bullying. Parents and students are advised via this policy that it is illegal for a child under 13 to register with and use Facebook.
- There are also restrictions on many other social media sites
- Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones in school
- Teachers will investigate, record and report all incidents of cyber bullying.

Scoil Bhríde, Shelagh endeavours to block access to inappropriate web sites, using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems. Furthermore no pupil is allowed to work on the internet in the computer room, or any other location within the school which may from time to time be used for such work, without a member of staff present.

If pupils engage in bullying sanctions will be applied as per *Code of Behaviour*

## What is cyber-bullying?

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

1. **Text messages** – can be threatening or cause discomfort.
2. **Picture/video-clips via mobile phone cameras** – images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed
2. **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
3. **Emails** – threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else's name
4. **Chat room bullying** – menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room
5. **Instant messaging (IM)** – unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real-time conversations online using Messenger, Yahoo Chat or similar tools
6. **Bullying via websites** – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal 'own web space' sites such as You Tube, Facebook and Ask.fm– although there are others
7. **Bullying via Social Media Apps**- Snapchat, Instagram etc.

## 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 rumours 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 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 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.

## **Supervision and monitoring of pupils**

The Board of Management confirms that appropriate supervision and monitoring policies and practices are in place to both prevent and deal with bullying behaviour and to facilitate early intervention where possible.

## **Prevention of harassment**

The Board of Management confirms that the school will, in accordance with its obligations under equality legislation, take all such steps that are reasonably practicable to prevent the sexual harassment of pupils or staff or the harassment of pupils or staff on any of the nine grounds specified, i.e. gender including transgender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability or race.

## **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) and other curriculum projects.
- The school will engage a speaker to facilitate a workshop on cyber bullying for the senior classes annually
- Staff CPD (Continuous Professional Development) will assist in learning about current technologies
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on how to combat cyber bullying
- Parents must agree to the school Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) contract.
- Pupils, teachers 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

The Gardaí may be contacted in cases of cyber bullying

Procedures in the ***Code of Behaviour*** will be followed to deal with cases of Cyber bullying. Sanctions for children engaging in cases of Cyber Bullying are the same for any type of bullying within the school. See code of behavior sections on Detention, Suspension and Expulsion.

**Reviewed and adopted June 2016**

**Updated November 2021.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Chairperson**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Principal**