

Smithdown Primary School

Cyber-Bullying Policy

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**Mission Statement**

At Smithdown Primary we strive to make a world of difference. We believe that children are ourhighest priority. We promote a cooperative partnership among students, parents, community and staff. Our mission is to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning by nurturing, guiding and challenging all of our students to achieve their maximum potential.

**Our Vision: (Based on the 5 aims of ‘Every Child Matters’)**

**Be Healthy**

* Meet the physical, emotional and educational needs of all children.
* Work in partnership with parents, carers and other agencies.
* Ensure every child is valued and heard

**Stay Safe**

* Provide a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment.
* Build positive relationships in our richly diverse community.
* Have high expectations and set clear boundaries to provide a climate of care and commitment to one another, where individuals are valued, feel safe and have their achievements celebrated.

**Enjoy and Achieve**

* Create a stimulating and challenging environment of which children, parents and the communityare proud.
* Meet every child’s learning needs and ensure they reach their full potential.
* Foster creative thinking, risk taking and collaboration in learning.
* Provide a curriculum which is broad, balanced and creative which promotes social and personal development.
* Work with parents, carers and other agencies to ensure children attend school regularly.

**Make a Positive Contribution**

* Promote an inclusive school with equality of opportunity for all
* Encourage every child to take responsibility for their learning and their behaviour.
* To develop in children an understanding of what it is to be a good citizen.

**Achieve Economic Well Being**

* Help children to recognise opportunities for lifelong learning.
* Help children to understand and prepare for the world of work.

**CYBER-BULLYING POLICY**

Smithdown Primary School embraces the advantages of modern technology in terms of the educational benefits it brings, however the school is mindful of the potential for bullying to occur. Central to the School’s anti-bullying policy is the belief that ‘all pupils have a right not to be bullied’ and that ‘bullying is always unacceptable’. The School also recognises that it must ‘take note of bullying perpetrated outside School which spills over into the School’. Under powers granted by the EIA 2006, the Head is able to police cyber-bullying or any bullying aspects carried out by pupils even at home.

**DEFINITION OF CYBER-BULLYING:**

Cyber-bullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact. By cyber-bullying, we mean bullying by electronic media, which includes;

* Messaging abusive, defamatory or humiliating material through mobile devices such as phones, laptops, games consoles and tablets.
* Digital photography to cause distress, fear or humiliation.
* Posting/sending threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating material by e-mail, on websites; to include blogs, personal websites and social networking sites.
* Hijacking/cloning e-mail, phone or social network accounts.
* Making threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating remarks in chat rooms, to include Facebook, Youtube, Twitter and Ratemyteacher.

**LEGAL ISSUES:**

Cyber-bullying is generally criminal in character. The law applies to cyberspace.

* It is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information in any media including internet sites.
* Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 makes it an offence to send, by public means of a public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or one of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.
* The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it an offence to knowingly pursue any course of conduct amounting to harassment.

**POLICY:**

Smithdown Primary School educates its pupils both in the proper use of electronic devices and about the serious consequences of cyber-bullying. It will be taught through PSHE, Circle Time, ICT and integrated through other curriculum areas were appropriate. Any mobile devices that are brought into school by the children will be locked and stored away safely for the day. Parents/carers will be informed of our actions.

Whilst education and guidance remains at the heart of what we do, Smithdown Primary reserves the right to take action against those who take part in cyber-bullying.

* All bullying is damaging but cyber-bullying and harassment can be invasive of privacy at all times. These acts may also be criminal acts.
* Smithdown Primary supports victims and, when necessary, will work with the Police to detect those involved in criminal acts.
* At Smithdown we will use, as appropriate, the full range of sanctions to correct, punish or remove pupils who bully fellow pupils or harass staff in this way, both in and out of school. (See Bullying, Safe Guarding and Behaviour for Learning Policy)
* Smithdown Primary will use its power of confiscation where necessary to prevent pupils from committing crimes or misusing equipment.
* All members of the School community are aware they have a duty to bring to the attention of the Head and SLT any example of cyber-bullying or harassment that they know about or suspect.

**GUIDANCE FOR STAFF:**

If you suspect or are told about a cyber-bullying incident, follow the protocol outlined below (Bullying and Safe Guarding Policy for further details):

**Mobile Devices**

* Ask the pupil to show you if they are comfortable too.
* Note clearly everything on the screen relating to an inappropriate text message or image, to include the date, time, context and names.
* Make a transcript of spoken messages, again record date, times, context and names.
* Tell the pupil to save the message/image.
* Go with the pupil and see the Head, Safe Guarding Officer or SLT and discuss.
* Keep parents/carers informed.
* Staff to sign and be clear on the E-Safety contract for the school.
* Staff to attend E-Safety training lead by LA (See attached contract in E-Safety Policy).

**Computers:**

* Ask the pupil to get up on-screen the material in question.
* Ask the pupil to save the material.
* Print off the offending material straight away.
* Make sure you have got all pages in the right order and that there are no omissions.
* Accompany the pupil, taking the offending material to Head, SLT or Child Protection Officer.
* Normal procedures to interview pupils and to take statements will then be followed particularly if a child protection issue is presented.

**GUIDANCE FOR PUPILS**

If you believe you or someone else is the victim of cyber-bullying, you must speak to an adult or trusted friend as soon as possible. This person could be a parent/carer, family members, friend or class teacher for example.

* Do not answer abusive messages but log and report them
* Do not delete anything until it has been shown to your teacher, family, parents/carer or the Head and SLT (even if it is upsetting, the material is important evidence which may need to be used later as proof of cyber-bullying)
* Keep personal details and pass words to yourself.
* For further details please see Pupil E-Safety contract in the E-safety policy.
* All pupils from F2 to Year 6 will read, understand and sign the contract.

**GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS**

It is vital that parents and the school work together to ensure that all pupils are aware of the serious consequences of getting involved in anything that might be seen to be cyber-bullying. Smithdown Primary informs parents of the cyber-bullying policy (School website and hard copy in the office) and the procedures in place to deal with cyber-bullying.

* Parents can help by making sure their child understands the school’s policy and E-Safety contract and above all, how seriously Smithdown Primary takes incidents of cyber-bullying.
* Parents/carers should also explain to their sons or daughters legal issues relating to cyber-bullying.
* If parents believe their child is the victim of cyber-bullying, they should save the offending material and make sure they have all relevant information before deleting anything.
* Parents should contact the Head Teacher as soon as possible. A meeting can then be arranged with the Head Teacher, which may involve other relevant members of staff and other agencies.
* If the incident falls in the holidays Smithdown Primary reserves the right to take action against bullying perpetrated outside the school which spills over into the school.
* Parents to understand and sign the E-safety contract for the school (see attached contract in E-Safety Policy).
* Parents/carers to attend school E-Safety training lead by LA.
* Parents should take note of any important E-Safety material that is sent home and contact the school if they have any relevant questions.

This policy will be reviewed yearly.