



Caherline N.S Anti-Cyberbullying Policy

1.0 Introduction

Caherline N.S 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.

2.0 Understanding Cyberbullying

- Cyberbullying is the use of ICT (usually a mobile phone and or the internet) 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, unauthorised publication of private information or images etc.
- While bullying involves a repetition of unwelcome behaviour the **Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools, September 2013**, states:

2.1.3. In addition, in the context of these procedures placing a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.

3.0 What is Cyberbullying

There are many types of cyberbullying. 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 Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, MSM (Microsoft Messenger), Yahoo Chat or similar tools
 7. Bullying via websites – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal 'own web space' sites such as Snapchat, Instagram, You Tube, Facebook, Ask.fm and Myspace – although there are others.

Explanation of slang terms used when referring to cyberbullying 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 online activities that make a person afraid for his or her 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 online group, like a 'buddy list.'

This list is not exhaustive, and the terms used continue to change.

4.0 Aims of Policy

- To ensure that pupils, staff and parents understand what cyberbullying is and how it can be combated
- To ensure that practices and procedures are agreed to combat cyberbullying
- To ensure that reported incidents of cyberbullying are dealt with effectively and quickly.

5.0 Procedures to combat Cyberbullying

- Staff, pupils, parents and Board of Management (BOM) will be made aware of issues surrounding cyberbullying through the use of appropriate awareness-raising exercises
- The school will invite the local Garda to speak to the senior classes regarding cyberbullying on a yearly basis.
- Pupils will learn about cyberbullying through Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), assemblies, friendship week activities and other curriculum projects
- Staff CPD (Continuous Professional Development) will assist in learning about new technologies
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on how to combat cyberbullying
- Pupils and parents will be urged to report all incidents of cyberbullying to the school
- All reports of cyberbullying will be recorded and

- stored in the Principal's office and monitored regularly
- Procedures in our school Anti-Bullying Policy shall apply
- The police will be contacted in cases of actual or suspected illegal content
- This policy will be reviewed annually. Pupils, parents and staff will be involved in reviewing and revising this policy and any related school procedure
- Pupils will not be allowed to use mobile phones in school by children
- Staff and pupils will take part in Anti-cyber bullying workshops

6.0 Sanctions

Sanctions will be in line with our Code of Behaviour Policy

Caherline NS endeavours to block access to inappropriate websites, using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems and no pupil is allowed to work on the Internet in any location within the school, without a member of staff present.

Whilst education and guidance remain at the centre of what we do, Caherline NS reserves the right to take disciplinary action (up to and including suspension and expulsion) against those who take part in cyberbullying.

Caherline NS supports victims of cyber bullying and when necessary, will work with the Gardaí and other State agencies to identify those involved in criminal acts and to support victims.

Caherline NS 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 inside and outside the school.

All members of the School community are aware they have a duty to bring to the attention of the Principal any example of cyberbullying or harassment that they know about or suspect.

7.0 Useful Websites

www.spunout.ie

www.childnet.int.org

www.kidsmart.org.uk/beingsmart

www.antibullying.net

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bullying

<http://ie.reachout.com>

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

www.abc.tcd.ie

POLICY RATIFICATION

Compiled in consultation with teachers, SNAs, pupils (Student Council) parents/guardians (email).