

## Anti-Cyberbullying Policy

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**WHAT IS THIS?**

The policy is an anti-cyberbullying policy, which outlines the school's commitment to providing a safe and respectful environment for all members of the school community. It aims to increase understanding among staff, students, and parents about the different forms of cyberbullying and the school's stance on the issue. The policy defines the different types of cyberbullying behaviours, and outlines the responsibilities of staff, students, and parents in recognizing and preventing cyberbullying behaviour. The policy also provides strategies for resolving conflicts and empowering students, staff, and parents to handle conflicts and stand up for themselves, and encourages open communication about cyberbullying and provides resources for help-seeking.

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**WHO IS IT FOR?**

The anti-cyberbullying policy is for the entire school community, including staff, students, and parents. It is designed to ensure that everyone understands their responsibilities in fostering a safe and respectful environment and preventing cyberbullying behaviours.

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**HOW CAN IT BE USED?**

This policy can be used as a framework for promoting a safe and respectful school environment and addressing cyberbullying incidents. It can be used by school administrators, teachers, and staff as a reference to identify and respond to cyberbullying behaviours, as well as to educate students and parents about the school's stance on cyberbullying. It can also be used to set expectations and standards for behaviour, provide strategies for resolving conflicts, and encourage reporting of cyberbullying incidents. By following this policy, the school community can work together to create a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all students.

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# Anti-Cyberbullying Policy

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As a school community, we are committed to creating a safe and respectful environment for all members, where everyone feels valued and supported. This anti-cyberbullying policy serves as a statement of our commitment to preventing and addressing cyberbullying behaviours in a prompt and effective manner.

## OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY

- To promote a culture of inclusivity, empathy, and respect within the school community.
- To raise awareness and understanding among staff, students, and parents about the different forms of cyberbullying and the school's zero-tolerance stance on the issue.
- To proactively address incidents of cyberbullying by providing support and resources to those affected and their families.
- To empower students, staff, and parents with strategies to handle conflicts and stand up for themselves and others.
- To create a safe and welcoming environment where everyone can thrive academically and personally.
- To encourage open communication about cyberbullying, provide help-seeking resources, and foster a positive school culture that promotes kindness and empathy.

## DEFINITION OF CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is any behaviour intended to harm, intimidate, or offend another person, whether by electronic means. It involves an imbalance of power between the perpetrator and the target, and it can cause emotional or physical harm.

## TYPES OF CYBERBULLYING BEHAVIOURS:

- **Cyberbullying behaviours:**
  - Using electronic means to cause harm through email, social media, or text messaging
  - Abusing technology, including the misuse of the camera or video equipment
  - Impersonating someone else through electronic means
  - Encouraging or pressuring others to participate in cyberbullying behaviours
- **Non-verbal cyberbullying behaviours:**
  - Social exclusion or isolation, such as spreading rumours or intentionally ignoring someone

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- Harassment through electronic means
  - Posting or sharing hurtful messages or images online
  - Harassment or cyberbullying through phone calls, texts, or other forms of social media
  - Sending of inappropriate and unsolicited images

## CONSENT

We recognize the importance of respecting personal boundaries and seeking explicit consent in all digital interactions. No one has the right to violate someone's privacy or dignity, and any behaviour that involves coercion, pressure, or manipulation is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

## COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

Creating a safe and inclusive school environment is the responsibility of everyone. We all have a role in preventing and addressing cyberbullying behaviours, and we must work together to achieve this goal.

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Staff, students, and parents have the following responsibilities:

- **The Leadership Team** will support, promote, implement, maintain, and review the cyberbullying policy and procedures regularly.
  - Provide regular education and training on cyberbullying prevention for students, staff, and parents, including strategies for bystander intervention and conflict resolution.
  - Ensure that the policy is regularly reviewed and updated as needed to reflect changes in laws and regulations, as well as emerging issues related to cyberbullying.
- **Staff members** are responsible for supervising students and recognizing, reporting, and addressing any incidents of cyberbullying or harassment that come to their attention.
  - Establish clear expectations and consequences for appropriate online behaviour, including social media use and cyberbullying.
- **Students** are expected to treat each other with respect, kindness, and empathy and report any cyberbullying behaviours to a trusted adult or use the available reporting systems.
- **Parents** are encouraged to talk to their children about cyberbullying, monitor their online activities, and inform the school immediately if they become aware of any incidents.

All staff, students, and parents are encouraged to report incidents or suspected cyberbullying immediately to the appropriate personnel.