MOSSCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Small school, big heart .... nurturing potential, inspiring confidence."

Anti Cyber Bullying Policy

At Mosscroft cyber bullying is defined as the use of a mobile phone or the internet to deliberately bully another person. We have the responsibility to ensure that cyber bullying does not take place in our school by ensuring pupils, school personnel and parents understand what it is and how it can be prevented.

We understand cyber bullying is highly intrusive and the hurt it causes can be very severe. As it leaves no physical scars cyber bullying is not easy to detect by a parent or a teacher.

We acknowledge cyber bullying can take place anywhere and can target pupils and school personnel. There are many types of cyber bullying such as text messages, picture/video clips, mobile phone calls, emails, chat room bullying, instant messaging and the use of websites to convey threats, intimidation and harassment etc.

We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form ant to express their views. We will also use whole school surveys to gather evidence and opinion on Cyber Bullying.

Aims

- To ensure pupils, school personnel and parents understand what cyber bullying is and how to prevent it.
- To have in place procedures to prevent incidents of cyber bullying.
- To have in place effective procedures to deal with all reported incidents of cyber bullying.

Procedures

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Head Teacher to ensure all school personnel and visitors to the school are aware and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring policies are made available to parents;
- nominated a link governor to visit the school regularly, to liaise with the coordinator and report back to the Governing Body;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

Role of the Head Teacher

The Head Teacher will:

- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- work closely with staff to review how the school network is monitored;
- ensure the Acceptable Use Policy outlines how the ICT suite and the internet should be used;
- provide support for those pupils and school personnel who may be victims of cyber bullying;
- deal with all incidents of cyber bullying quickly and effectively;
- consider the use of legal powers under the Education Act 2006 that allows him/her to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off-site;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- report regularly to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy.
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;

Role of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

The SLT will:

- work closely with the Head Teacher to ensure that:
    1. The Acceptable Use Policy is up to date
    2. The school network is monitored
    3. Information is provided to pupils and parents
- provide guidance and support to all staff;
- ensure all cyber bullying is discussed during staff meetings and inset days;
- ensure cyber bullying is discussed with pupils through class discussions;
- invite pupils to consider the effects of cyber bullying;
- help review anti bullying and pupil behaviour and discipline policies;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- regularly report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy.

Role of the Health and Safety Governors

The Health and Safety Governor will:

- work closely with the Head Teacher and the SLT;
- ensure this policy and others linked policies are up to date;
- ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of this policy;
- report to the Governing Body.

Role of the School Personnel

School personnel will:

- comply with all the afore mentioned aspects of this policy;
- be alert to the dangers of cyber bullying;
- report all incidents of cyber bullying to a member of the SLT;
- ensure that no pupil has unsupervised access to the internet;

- regularly remind pupils of:
  1. the safe use of the IT Suite
  2. the Acceptable Use Policy
  3. the need to report any incidents of cyber bullying to a member of school personnel
- inform pupils of the danger of cyber bullying through PSHE, SEAL and anti bullying week activities etc;
- be advised not to give their mobile phone numbers or email addresses to any pupil;
- be advised not to accept as a 'friend' any pupil on to their Face Book page;
- seek the views of the pupils in monitoring and evaluation this policy.

Role of the Pupil

Pupils will:

- comply with all of the aforementioned aspects of this policy;
- be encouraged to report all incidents of cyber bullying to a member of the school personnel;
- not bring mobile phones into school.

Role of the School Council

The school council will be involved in:

- Anti Bullying Week;
- gathering information to enable monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of this policy.

Role of the Parents

Parents will:

- be made aware of this policy;
- comply with this policy;
- sign an internet permission form;
- be encouraged to discuss cyber bullying with their children;
- report all incidents of cyber bullying involving their children to the school;
- be aware that there is an age limit of 13 for setting up a facebook account and for some other social media sites.

Recording and Reporting

- All reported incidents are investigated and dealt with.
- Parents are informed of all events and what actions have been taken.
- Records will be kept of all incidents and their outcomes in the Anti Bullying File.

Dealing with Cyber Bullying Incidents

The Head Teacher and SLT will:

- deal with all incidents of cyber bullying quickly and effectively;
- impose sanctions as outlined in the schools 'behaviour for learning policy' on any pupil identified as being the bully;
- confiscate any mobile phone brought into school;
- contact the police and social services if the cyber bullying is sufficiently severe;
- keep the parents informed of the schools actions.

Counselling and Support

- Counselling and support mechanisms are in place to help those who have been bullied.
- All perpetrators of bullying are given the time to discuss why they have bullied and why their actions were wrong through Restorative Practice.

Raising Awareness of this Policy

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- The school website
- The Staff Handbook
- Parents information sessions
- School events
- Meetings with parents
- Meetings with school personnel
- Newsletters
- Head Teacher reports to the governing Body.

Monitoring and effectiveness of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head Teacher, SLT and the Health and Safety Governors and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the full governing body.

Policy Adopted – September 2017

Review Date – September 2018