



LOCKERS PARK SCHOOL

PREVENTION OF CYBERBULLYING

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POLICY ON THE PREVENTION OF CYBERBULLYING

Introduction

Lockers Park is known as a happy school and for this reason, bullying is able to be kept to a minimum. Nevertheless, it still can and does happen and therefore all staff and boys have been advised to keep a watch for it and to take the appropriate action if they discover it is happening. (Quoted from Lockers Park 'Policy on the Prevention of Bullying')

Writing and reviewing the Policy on the Prevention of Cyberbullying

The Lockers Park Policy on the Prevention of Cyberbullying relates to other policies including those for Computing, Computing Acceptable Use, ESafety, Safeguarding and Prevention of Bullying.

This Policy has been written by the Head of Computing, building on County and Government guidance. It has been agreed by the DSL and approved by senior management and staff.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually.

What is cyberbullying?

Definition:

Cyberbullying is being cruel to others by sending or posting harmful material or engaging in other forms of social cruelty by using the Internet or other digital technologies.

Cyberbullying can include:

- Flaming – online “fights” using electronic messages
- Harassment – repeatedly sending offensive messages
- Denigration – sending or posting material about a person to damage his or her reputation or friendships
- Impersonation – posing as a person and posting material to make the person look bad, get in trouble, or danger, or damage that person’s reputation or friendships
- Outing and trickery – sharing someone’s’ secrets or embarrassing information or images online or tricking someone into revealing such information and then sharing
- Exclusion – intentionally excluding someone from an online group
- Cyberstalking – repeatedly sending threatening and intimidating messages or engaging in other online activities that make a person afraid for his or her safety (*Willard, N (2007) Cyberbullying and Cyberthreats: Responding to the Challenge of Online Social Aggression, Threats, and Distress. Research Press.*)

- Happy slapping – using a mobile phone camera to record an attack which can then be distributed via mobile phone or online
- * Any of the above using a mobile telephone.

How is someone at risk?

Because of the anonymity that new communications technologies offer, anyone with a mobile phone or Internet connection can be a target for cyberbullying so it can take place anywhere. What's more, bullies can reach much larger numbers within a peer group than they can with conventional bullying. Nasty comments posted on a website, for instance, can be seen by a large audience, as can video clips sent by mobile phone.

How does the school control cyberbullying?

Measures to control bullying:

- a) There is a code of conduct at Lockers which encourages all boys to be honest, kind, co-operative, considerate and use their common sense; if adhered to, this in itself goes a long way to making boys think before they act in a bullying manner
- b) Boys are constantly advised what constitutes a bullying incident and there are notices around the School telling them what to do and whom to tell if they witness or are involved in an incident. Likewise, they are also advised that if they witness an incident and do nothing, they are thus in danger of being seen as part of the bullying group. Bullying is specifically covered in PSHE lessons
- c) Parents are invited to attend a talk on Esafety during the school year. Children also have an assembly on the same subject, again delivered by a teacher from Lockers Park.
- d) In Computing lessons pupils are taught and regularly reminded of what is acceptable and what is not and they are given clear objectives for Internet and email use. ESafety which incorporates online behaviour, is taught as a specific unit each year. Boys are taught not to respond to bullies but to report any messages or material that makes them feel uncomfortable. They are also taught that behaviour online should mirror offline behaviour.
- e) There are 'Cyberbullying' posters around the School, containing rules for children to follow so that they are less likely to become a victim or a bully
- f) All pupils and their parents have signed an 'Internet Acceptable Use Policy' which is updated and redistributed whenever changes are required. Boys are reminded of this policy in Computing lessons and by 'Stop and Think' posters around the school.
- g) Lockers Park School uses Lightspeed to block access for pupils to Social Networking sites, Newsgroups, Instant Messaging sites, Chat Rooms and Web Mail sites so there is little opportunity for cyberbullying to take place. Italc software which enables an administrator to check what a boy is accessing on the school network also ensures that boys are discouraged from breaking the ICT room rules.
- h) The school only has protected wireless internet connections available to selected staff. Pupils are not allowed to access this
- i) Form Teachers are included in form email groups so that they automatically receive any emails which get sent to a whole class. Boys are taught that they must immediately tell a teacher if they receive offensive e-mail
- j) Staff are equally reminded to be vigilant. This particularly concerns the boarding staff, Form Teachers and staff on duty at weekends and during free time. Prefects are also reminded that they have a very important role since they will often know about the existence of bullying before it becomes apparent to staff. Staff and Prefects alike are thus reminded to try to be as approachable as possible
- k) In the Boarding House, further measures are taken at the end of each term with the boarders submitting Dormitory Requests which explain which dormitories they wish to be in the following term and with whom they wish to share. This is an effective way of finding out those boys with whom boys do not wish to share – it thus often is a first warning sign that bullying of some sort may be going on in the background which to date had not been brought to notice.

- l) With camera phones now ubiquitous boys, are not allowed to take photos (or videos) of either other pupils or staff. Boys are prohibited from having phones in either school or in the dormitories and as such there are limited opportunities for this to happen. The school camera is available for all staff to use and photos are stored in a centralised folder.

What if cyberbullying occurs?

In line with Lockers Park 'Policy on the Prevention of Bullying':

Action if suspected:

All such behaviour is wholly unacceptable. If boys find such behaviour going on or experience it themselves, they know that they should tell someone as soon as possible.

An adult may either be able to deal with the problem at the time or may well bring it to the attention of the Headmaster. In any event, the incident is recorded in the incident file on iSams.

Measures taken to rectify cyberbullying once it is discovered:

This will be dealt with initially by the Form Teacher, in consultation with the Headmaster. Cyberbullying will be dealt with in the same way as other bullying. Each incident will depend on the circumstances and whether it is the first offence or one of a series. Ultimately, the boy/s who have been bullied will be suitably supported by staff.

Likewise, the boy found bullying will also be given suitable help and guidance so that he knows what he has done wrong and how he can prevent such incidents happening again. In most cases, particularly those which involve repeat offences, the Headmaster will inform the parents.

Further Information

DCSF Publication

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/Cyberbullying-leaflet.pdf>

Online campaign 'Laugh at it and you're part of it'

<http://yp.direct.gov.uk/cyberbullying/>

Hertfordshire Grid for Learning Sites

<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/bullying.shtml>

Wiltshire County Council Cyberbullying Guidance

<http://wisenet.wiltshire.gov.uk/documents/dsweb/GetRendition/Document-5428/html>

Key national document : "Cyberbullying – Safe to Learn: Embedding Antibullying work in schools" DCSF-00658-2007

http://cms.lgfl.net/c/document_library/get_file?folderId=217174&name=DLFE-238.doc

CBBC Article – What is 'happy slapping'?

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4490000/newsid_4498700/4498719.stm

