

Cyber Safety Information



Parents & Pupils

What is Cyber Bullying?

Cyber Bullying is using any form of technology to abuse or threaten another person. Examples include:

- Sending harassing text messages
- Making malicious/abusive phone calls
- Taking a picture/video of people on mobiles and passing these around for amusement
- Writing threatening E-mails
- Being abusive in chat rooms
- Writing nasty things about people in websites
- Sending nasty instant messages
- Breaking into someone's e-mail account to send nasty messages to others
- Standing by and watching others do any of the above



What can Schools do?

Make sure that cyber bullying is understood by **all** staff and added to your anti-bullying policy.

Ensure all school staff, pupils and parents know about the policy and systems and that they are regularly updated.

Monitor internet traffic within the school.

Ensure that cyber bullying is taught as part of a balanced PSHE curriculum and ensure it teaches pupils how to be safe on the internet and on their mobile phones, demonstrating the pros **and** cons of each.

Introduce clear policies on use of mobile phones in school and during school activities.

Regularly inform staff of new technologies and ways in that they might be abused by people intent on causing harm to others.

Ensure harmful websites are blocked and regularly check that this remains the case.



Provide parents with a list of blocked sites and reasons for blocking every term.

Work with police and other partners such as voluntary agencies e.g. Childline on managing cyber bullying.

What can Parents do?

Take an interest in what **your** child is doing on the computer.

Familiarise yourself with the websites that **your** children uses.



Read carefully the information from your Internet Service Provider (ISP) about setting parental controls and use them.

Monitor what sort of sites **your** child visits most and ask them what they are doing. If **your** child was going out, you would ask what they were doing and where they are going, this is the same thing!

Understand what is meant by the different terms that people use in chat rooms.

Familiarise yourself and **your** children with www.internetsafetyzone.com. Discuss the issues, concerns and safety features with **your** child.

If **your** child does want to meet someone from a chat room, make sure you accompany them and that they know the risks.



Contact the school at any time to voice any concerns you may have over what **your** child is doing.

What can Young People do?

If in chatrooms, always use a nickname, **don't** give people you don't know your personal information like full name, mobile number etc. You wouldn't do this straight away on the street, so why do it online?



Be very careful about what kind of picture, if any, you post onto the internet as people could alter it and use it for other purposes.

If you are being harassed on-line, **report** this abuse via the link on the website and leave the area (i.e. chat room, instant messaging).



If you receive nasty messages through e-mail or IM, **block** the sender and report them on the website. Never reply to harassing messages.

Never meet a chatroom buddy in the real world without a trusted adult accompanying you first - better safe than sorry.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.stoptextbully.com
www.childline.org.uk
www.iwf.org.uk

Remember, not everyone on the Internet is who they say they are. It is like meeting a **stranger** in the street, you would not believe everything they tell you at first, would you?

Blocking – Stopping someone messaging or e-mailing you

Blog – A web diary that anyone can create that can include any information

Chatroom – An area on the internet where anyone can speak to anyone else in real time

IM'ing – Using Instant Messenger (MSN)

SMS – Short Messaging Service (Mobile Text Messaging)

Online Buddy – Someone you swap messages with in chatrooms

Spamming – Sending lots of messages to someone at once to annoy them

Grooming – Older people getting to know younger people over time to sexually abuse them

My Space/Bebo – Web site that allows children to create their own pages and upload pictures etc – regarded by DCSF as 'generally safe' but definitely worth parents having a look at generally to see the kinds of things on there.

ChildLine – 0800 1111 Samaritans – 08457 909090 NCH – Text 'Bully' 60000