Cyber Bullying
POLICY

Rationale
Cyber bullying in any form is unacceptable. Cyber bullying that is carried out through an internet service, such as email, chat room, discussion group, Ultranet or instant messaging or through mobile phone technologies such as short messaging service (SMS) is cyber bullying. Cyber bullying will not be tolerated at any level, and consequences exist for students who choose to bully others.

Definition
Cyber bullying is when someone, or a group of people, upset or create a risk to another person's health and safety - either psychologically or physically - or their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion. Cyber bullies deliberately set out to intimidate, exclude, threaten and/or hurt others repeatedly. Cyber bullying is a clear form of harassment. People who use the internet, Ultranet, email, intranet, phones or similar technologies to bully others are cyber bullies.

Aims
- To reinforce within the school community what cyber bullying is, and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- To ensure that everyone within the school community will be alert to signs and evidence of cyber bullying and to have a responsibility to report it to a staff member whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of cyber bullying are investigated and recorded appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

Implementation
- This policy should be read in conjunction with the school’s Student Engagement and Well-Being Policy.
- Parents, teachers, students and the community will be aware of the school’s position on cyber bullying.
- Teachers will be regularly reminded of their duty of care regarding protection of students from all forms of bullying.
- The school will adopt the following four-phase approach to cyber bullying:

A. Primary Prevention
- Professional development will be provided for all staff relating to cyber bullying, harassment and proven counter measures.
- The school community will be educated about the seriousness of cyber bullying, its impact on those being bullied and how this behaviour is unacceptable.
- Each classroom teacher is to clarify with students at the start of each term, and as required throughout the year, the school policy on cyber-bullying.
The curriculum is to include programs that promote resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution and problem solving, as well as anti-bullying messages and strategies.

All students to be provided with computer and network logins and passwords. Firewalls will be used to assist in eliminating outside traffic into the school’s network and intranet.

The use of mobile phones by students during school hours will be prohibited with consequences to be implemented for any students who use mobile phones inappropriately. All mobile phones are to be handed into the office when students arrive at school.

B. Early Intervention

Encourage students and staff to report cyber bullying incidents involving themselves or others.

Classroom teachers and the Principal are to remind students and staff on a regular basis to report incidents of cyber bullying.

The school will regularly monitor student traffic on the school’s computer networks to identify potential problems.

Parents are encouraged to contact school immediately if they become aware of a problem.

If the school becomes aware of any cyber bullying incidents, they will contact the parents of the students involved.

C. Intervention

All incidents or allegations of cyber bullying will be fully investigated and documented by a staff member and forwarded onto the school leadership team.

The parents of any students involved in a cyber bullying incident (whether the victim or the perpetrator) will be contacted.

Students and staff identified by others as cyber bullies will be informed of the allegations.

Cyber bullies and victims may be offered counselling and support.

Cyber-bullies will have their access to the school’s network and computers removed for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the staff members involved.

If student cyber bullying persists, consequences consistent with the school’s Student Discipline Policy will be implemented.

D. Follow Up

Consequences for students will be individually based and may involve:

* exclusion from class;
* exclusion from the yard;
* school suspension;
* withdrawal of privileges; and/or
* ongoing counselling from an appropriate professional as decided by the Principal for both the victim and cyber bully.

Ongoing monitoring of identified cyber bullies.

References

Safe Schools are Effective Schools booklet
Evaluation
This policy will be reviewed every three (3) years or as deemed necessary.