# -Whitehill Community Academy
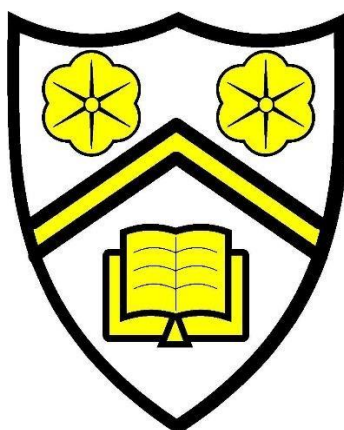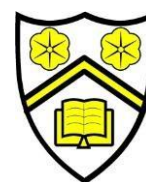
# Cyber-Bullying Policy

| Name of Policy Writer/Amendments | Date Written/Amended | Next Review Date |
|---|---|---|
| D Williams/D Hepplestone | October 2018 | October 2021 |
| D Williams/D Hepplestone | October 2021 | September 2022 |
| D Williams/D Hepplestone J Greenwood | September 2022 | September 2025 |
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**Whitehill Community Academy Multi Academy Trust**
**"Opening minds, unlocking potential, celebrating success together"**

**"Whitehill Community Primary School is OUTSTANDING IN ALL AREAS" - Ofsted, June 2008**

## CYBER-BULLYING POLICY

Whitehill Community Academy Multi- Academy Trust embraces the advantages of modern technology in terms of the educational benefits it brings, however the school is mindful of the potential for bullying to occur. Central to the School's anti-bullying policy is the belief that 'all pupils have a right not to be bullied' and that 'bullying is always unacceptable'. The School also recognises that it must 'take note of bullying perpetrated outside School which spills over into the School'. Under powers granted by the EIA 2006, the Principal is able to police cyber-bullying or any bullying aspects carried out by pupils even at home.

## DEFINITION OF CYBER-BULLYING

Cyber-bullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/herself.

By cyber-bullying, we mean bullying by electronic media:

Bullying by texts or messages or calls on mobile phones

The use of mobile phone cameras to cause distress, fear or humiliation

Posting threatening, abusive, and defamatory or humiliating material on websites, to include blogs, personal websites, and social networking sites

Using e-mail to message others

Hijacking/cloning e-mail accounts

Making threatening, abusive, and defamatory or humiliating remarks in chat rooms, to include Facebook, Twitter, Messenger, Minecraft Youtube Ratemyteacher TikTok Instagram,Snapchat, and What's App

## LEGAL ISSUES

Cyber-bullying is generally criminal in character. The law applies to cyberspace. It is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information in any media including internet sites.

Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 makes it an offence to send, by public means of a public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or one of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it an offence to knowingly pursue any course of conduct amounting to harassment.

## POLICY

Whitehill Academy educates its pupils both in the proper use of telecommunications through social media and about the serious consequences of cyber-bullying, lessons are taught through, PSHE and in ICT lessons, assemblies will continue to inform and educate its pupils in these fast changing areas.

Whitehill Academy trains its staff to respond effectively to reports of cyber-bullying or harassment and has systems in place to respond to it. Whitehill Academy endeavours to block access to inappropriate web sites, using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems and no pupil is allowed to work on the internet in the Computer Room, or any other location within the school which may from time to time be used for such work, without a member of staff present. Where appropriate and responsible, Whitehill Academy audits ICT communications and regularly reviews the security arrangements in place.

Whilst education and guidance remain at the heart of what we do, Whitehill Academy reserves the right to take action against those who take part in cyber-bullying. All bullying is damaging but cyber-bullying and harassment can be invasive of privacy at all times. These acts may also be criminal acts.

Whitehill Academy supports victims and, when necessary, will work with the Police to detect those involved in criminal acts.

Whitehill Academy will use, as appropriate, the full range of sanctions to correct, punish or remove pupils who bully fellow pupils or harass staff in this way, both in and out of school.

Whitehill Academy will use its power of confiscation where necessary to prevent pupils from committing crimes or misusing equipment.

All members of the School community are aware they have a duty to bring to the attention of the Principal any example of cyber-bullying or harassment that they know about or suspect.

## GUIDANCE FOR STAFF

If you suspect or are told about a cyber-bullying incident, follow the protocol outlined below:

### Mobile Phones

Ask the pupil to show you the mobile phone

Note clearly everything on the screen relating to an inappropriate text message or image, to include the date, time and names

Make a transcript of a spoken message, again record date, times and names

Tell the pupil to save the message/image

Go with the pupil and see the Principal, or in his absence, a member of the Senior Leadership Team

### Computers

Ask the pupil to get up on-screen the material in question

Ask the pupil to save the material

Print off the offending material straight away

Make sure you have got all pages in the right order and that there are no omissions

Accompany the pupil, taking the offending material, to see the Principal

Normal procedures to interview pupils and to take statements will then be followed particularly if a child protection issue is presented.

## GUIDANCE FOR PUPILS

If you believe you or someone else is the victim of cyber-bullying, you must speak to an adult as soon as possible. This person could be a parent/guardian, your tutor, your matron or the Principal.

Do not answer abusive messages but log and report them

Do not delete anything until it has been shown to your Form Teacher, Mentor, parents/guardian or the Principal (even if it is upsetting, the material is important evidence which may need to be used later as proof of cyber-bullying)

Do not give out personal IT details

Never reply to abusive e-mails

Never reply to someone you do not know

Stay in public areas in chat rooms

## GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

It is vital that parents and the school work together to ensure that all pupils are aware of the serious consequences of getting involved in anything that might be seen to be cyber-bullying. Whitehill Academy informs parents of the cyber-bullying policy and the procedures in place to deal with cyber-bullying.

Parents can help by making sure their child understands the school's policy and, above all, how seriously Whitehill Academy takes incidents of cyber-bullying Parents should also explain to their sons or daughter's legal issues relating to cyberbullying

If parents believe their child is the victim of cyber-bullying, they should save the offending material (if need be by saving an offensive text on their or their child's mobile phone) and make sure they have all relevant information before deleting anything

Parents should contact the Principal as soon as possible. A meeting can then be arranged with the Principal, which may involve other relevant members of staff If the incident falls in the holidays Whitehill Academy reserves the right to take action against bullying perpetrated outside the school which spills over into the school.

## E-SAFETY AT HOME

Several sites offer helpful advice to parents, particularly with respect to how they can best monitor their child's use of the computer at home. Important and useful information can be found on the following site:

www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk/safeguarding-learners/Safeguarding-learnerscontent/Parents-and-carers/

## ICT CODE OF CONDUCT

This is displayed in prominently in Computer Room and the Code of Conduct is explained and discussed with pupils in assemblies, PSHE classes and IT classes.

## NATIONAL BODIES

Further support and guidance may be obtained from the following:
http://ceop.police.uk/  https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/ The following information can be downloaded from the above website:
Safe to Learn: *Embedding anti-bullying work in schools* (2007):
Cyber-bullying Guidance and Resources. Safe to Learn
Cyber-bullying Summary Leaflet

Information Sheet for Teachers and other Professionals who work with Young People

https://www.bullying.co.uk/

https://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/blog/body-shaming-cyberbullying

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/623895/Preventing_and_tackling_bullying_advice.pdf

https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html


Reviewed September 2022
DWilliams DHepplestone  J.Greenwood
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