

A stylized illustration of a windmill with four sails, one of which is yellow. To the right of the windmill is a white building with a dark arched doorway. The background is a light blue sky with a white sun and a few birds. The foreground shows green bushes and a green field.

The Edith Borthwick School

ANTI-CYBERBULLYING POLICY

Lead Governor	Annie Bush
Date approved by Governing Body	3rd November 2025
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1. Introduction

Cyberbullying is the use of technologies by an individual or a group of people to deliberately and repeatedly upset someone else.

Cyberbullying is a whole school community issue and staff may be victims of cyberbullying from pupils, parents, colleagues or other members of the school community.

A wide variety of behaviours can be considered cyberbullying, including:

- intimidation and threats.
- harassment and stalking.
- vilification/defamation.
- exclusion or peer rejection.
- impersonation.
- unauthorised publication of personal information or images.
- manipulation.

Cyberbullying may also constitute discrimination and hate crimes, such as:

- sexist bullying.
- racist and faith-targeted bullying.
- homophobic or biphobic bullying.
- transphobic bullying.
- bullying in relation to a disability.

It is important that the school community is aware that cyberbullying will be dealt with as seriously as face-to-face bullying, regardless of whether the bullying is physically perpetrated on the school site. **DfE guidance on cyberbullying** states: "Schools should also make clear that it is not acceptable for pupils, parents or colleagues to denigrate and bully school staff via social media in the same way that it is unacceptable to do so face to face."

2. What you can do as a parent

- It is important that parents and carers ensure that their children are engaged in safe and responsible online behaviour.
- Encourage your child to let you know if they have any problems with cyberbullying.
- Parental control software can limit who your child sends emails to and who he/she receives them from. It can also block access to some chat rooms.
- Make it your business to know what your child is doing online and who your child's online friends are
- Keep the computer/laptop in a public place in the house. Periodically check on what your child is doing. Discuss the kinds of internet activities your child enjoys.
- Search for your child's name online, look at his or her profiles and postings on teen community sites, review web pages or blogs.
- Watch out for secretive behaviour as you approach the computer, such as rapidly switching screens, and for attempts to hide online behaviour, such as an empty history file.

3. What you can do as a student

- If you are being bullied, remember bullying is never your fault. It can be stopped and it can usually be traced.
- Don't ignore the bullying. Tell someone you trust, such as a teacher or parent.
- Try to keep calm. If you are frightened, try to show it as little as possible. Don't get angry, it will only make the person bullying you more likely to continue.
- You can block a person's number so that they cannot contact you.

4. Text/Video messaging

- You can turn off incoming messages.
- If bullying persists, you can change your phone number.

5. Chat room and instant messaging

- Never give out your name, address, phone number, school name or password on line. Do not give out photos of yourself either.
- Do not accept emails or open files from people you do not know.
- Remember it might not just be people your own age in a chat room.
- Stick to public areas in chat rooms and get out if you feel uncomfortable.
- Tell your parents or carers if you feel uncomfortable or worried about anything that happens in a chat room.
- Think carefully about what you write – don't leave yourself open to bullying.

6. Three rules to remember

1. Respect other people – online and off. Do not spread rumours about people or share their secrets, including phone numbers and passwords.
2. If someone insults you online or by phone, stay calm and ignore them, but tell someone you trust.
3. Think how you would feel if you were bullied. You are responsible for your own behaviour – make sure you don't distress other people or cause them to be bullied by someone else.

7. Relevant training for staff

All staff receive relevant safeguarding training, which is regularly refreshed.

8. Teaching learners about cyberbullying

Internet safety is a key part of the curriculum and learners are taught about cyberbullying within these lessons.

9. Supporting families with incidents or concerns around cyber bullying

Families play a significant role in supporting learners to use technology safely. Staff at school, including the class teacher, class line manager, DSL and family worker will work with families in

supporting the learner to keep safe online. School staff will meet with families to discuss concerns, issues and any barriers to supporting the learner. When required staff will be able to show families how to put restrictions on technology and signpost families to any services which may be able to help.

10. Reporting cyberbullying

Staff have access to CPOMS to report any cyberbullying that is taking place in and out of school. Staff can also report low-level concerns via the school website, and have a particular log in for this.

11. Consequences

There will be consequences for bullying behaviour. All incidents of bullying will be treated seriously.

All serious concerns over cyberbullying will be discussed within SLG, after being reported on CPOMS.

Decisions around consequences will be made, based on information from the behaviour policy.

12. Useful links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis>

<http://www.childline.org.uk/Explore/Bullying/Pages/Bullyinginfo.aspx>

[Homepage - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)