

Rationale

Young students have embraced the use of information and communication technologies to maintain contact with friends and make new ones. They send e-mails, create their own websites, post intimate personal news in blogs (online interactive diaries), send text messages and images via cell phones, message each other through IMs (instant messages), chat in chatrooms, post to discussion boards, and seek out new friends in community sites. While most interactions are positive, there are increasing reports of these technologies being used to harass and intimidate others. This has become known as cyber bullying.

Definition

Cyber bullying is when someone is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed, or otherwise targeted by another child, pre-teen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. It has to be a minor on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor.

Staff at Ardmona Primary School have the responsibility to ensure that:

- all forms of cyber bullying are prohibited at Ardmona Primary School
- staff are aware of cyber bullying and are able to identify and look for signs of occurrence among the students
- students are aware of the consequences of cyber bullying (student code of conduct)
- a code of conduct is in use for technology, including computers and mobile phones, whilst on the school premises
- all cases of cyber bullying are reported to the Assistant Principal / Principal and responded to promptly
- there is supervision of technology that is effective for monitoring and deterring cyber bullying

Students at Ardmona Primary School have a responsibility to ensure that they:

- hand in mobile phones to the office before school and collect them at the end of the day
- do not participate in cyber bullying
- do not use mobile phones, cameras or other digital devices to record audio and visual material that is not authorised as part of the school curriculum program
- do not breach the privacy of students, staff and members of the school community through any unauthorised recording or filming
- do not disseminate inappropriate information through digital media or other means
- report incidents of cyber bullying to a member of staff
- advise students being victimised by cyber bullying to talk to an adult
- offer to speak to an adult on behalf of the student who is being victimised by cyber bullying



Policy

Ardmona Primary School is committed to developing a safe environment where the students act respectfully and positively towards each other in acceptable and non-threatening ways. Ardmona Primary School provides its own e-mail system.

How students can protect themselves from cyber bullies

- Do not give anyone access to your passwords or provide people you don't trust with your phone number.
- Be careful which websites you post personal information on.
- Do not open e-mails or read text messages from unidentified names or phone numbers.

What students are to do if they feel they are a victim of cyber bullying?

- Do NOT respond
- Tell a teacher / Assistant Principal / Principal right away
- First and foremost, save original evidence (e-mails, instant messages, etc) with dates and times

www.stopcyberbullying.org

Review Cycle

This policy was approved by School Council on the 27th of October 2021 and scheduled for review in October 2024



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