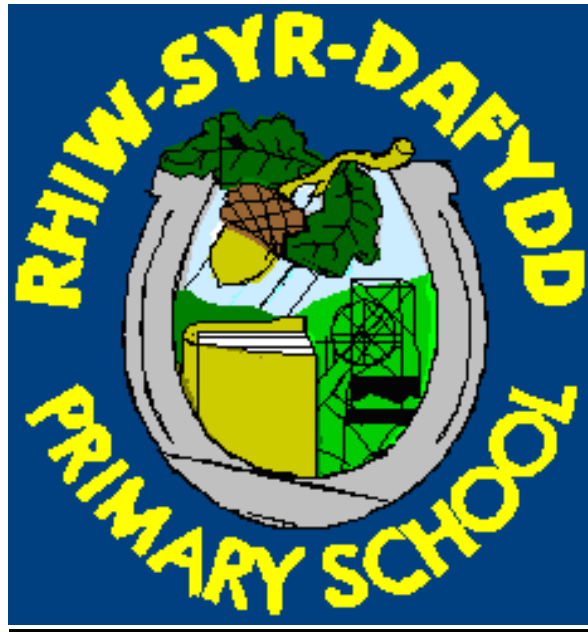


Rhiw Syr Dafydd
Primary School



Counter Cyber Bullying Policy

Issue	Author	Date	Approved by Governors
1.0	C George	February 15	
	C George – reviewed	July 2017	

Policy

Mission Statement

Our mission is to create a happy and productive community of learners who are

Respectful of everybody and everything

Sharing our knowledge and understanding

Determined to make a difference

Passionate about lifelong learning

Saying yes to success

Race Equality Statement

At Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School we are committed to race equality, promoting positive approaches to difference and fostering respect for people of all cultural backgrounds. We are opposed to all forms of racial prejudice and discrimination. Language or behaviour that is racist or potentially damaging to any ethnic or racial group will not be tolerated and will be challenged. We at Rhiw Syr Dafydd recognise that Wales and the U.K. have diverse societies made up of people from many different racial, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds. It is important that all pupils are prepared to live in such a diverse society.

Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School **Counter Cyber Bullying Policy**

Our vision

“Technological development in recent years has made the world around us an exciting place where distances and circumstances maintain few barriers to the journeys of enquiring minds. Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School recognises this and aims to create a learning culture supported by information and communications technology (ICT) where children, young people, families and communities prosper from 21st century opportunities.”

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Anti-Bullying, ICT and Internet Safety policies.

Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School believes that everyone in the school community has the right to learn and to teach in a caring and supportive environment without the fear of being bullied. We are committed to helping all members of the school community to benefit from information and communication technology, whilst understanding its risks, and to equip children with the knowledge and skills to be able to use it safely and responsibly.

Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Pupils, staff and parents know about cyber bullying and its consequences;
- We have the knowledge, policies and procedures to prevent and, if necessary, to deal with instances of cyber bullying in school or within the school community;
- We monitor the effectiveness of our policies.

What is cyber bullying?

- Cyber bullying includes sending or posting harmful or upsetting text, images or other messages, using the internet, mobile phones or other communication technology;
- It can take many forms, but can go even further than face to face bullying by invading home and personal space and can target one or more people;
- It can take place across age groups and target pupils, staff and others;
- It can include threats and intimidation, harassment, defamation, exclusion or peer rejection, impersonation and unauthorised publication of private information or images;
- It can include messages intended as jokes, but which have a harmful or upsetting effect.

Cyber bullying may be carried out in many ways, including:

- Threatening, intimidating or upsetting text messages;
- Threatening or embarrassing pictures and video clips via mobile phone cameras;
- Silent or abusive phone calls or using the victim's phone to harass others, to make them think the victim is responsible;
- Threatening or bullying emails, possibly sent using a pseudonym or someone else's name;
- Menacing or upsetting responses to someone in a chat-room or on line gaming;
- Unpleasant or upsetting messages sent during instant messaging;
- Unpleasant or defamatory information posted on blogs, personal websites and social networking sites.

Prevention of cyber bullying:

- The Head Teacher is the school's e-Safety officer and oversees practices and procedures outlined in this policy and monitor their effectiveness;
- The e-Safety officer will ensure that the school maintains details of agencies and resources that may assist in preventing and addressing bullying;
- Staff will be trained to identify signs of cyber bullying and will be helped to keep informed about the technologies that children commonly use;
- A Code of Advice will be developed, periodically reviews and communicated to help pupils protect themselves from being caught up in cyber bullying and to advise them on reporting any incidents;
- Pupils will be informed about cyber bullying through curricular and pastoral activities;
- Pupils and staff are expected to comply with the school's Acceptable Use Policy.
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on cyber bullying.

Practices and Procedures:

- The responsibility of the school and of pupils as set out in the Anti-Bullying Policy apply also to this policy;
- Positive use of ICT will be promoted and the Acceptable Use Policy will be kept under review as technologies develop;
- CPD and INSET may be used to help staff develop their own practices and support pupils in safe and responsible use of ICT;
- The school will encourage safe use of ICT, emphasizing, for example, the importance of password security and the need to log out of accounts;
- The school will promote the message that asking for help is the right thing to do and all members of the school community will be informed how cyber bullying can be reported;
- Confidential records will be kept of all cyber bullying incidents.

Responding to cyber bullying:

Cyber bullying will generally be dealt with through the schools Anti-Bullying Policy. A cyber bullying incident might include features different to other forms of bullying, porting a particular response. Key differences could include:

- Impact: possibly extensive scale and scope;
- Location: the anytime and anywhere nature of cyber bullying;
- Anonymity: the person being bullied might not know who the perpetrator is;
- Motivation: the perpetrator might not realise that his / her actions are bullying;
- Evidence: the subject of the bullying will have evidence of what happened.

Support for the person being bullied:

As with any form of bullying, support for the individual will depend on the circumstances.

Examples include:

- Emotional support and reassurance that it was right to report the incident;
- Advice not to retaliate or reply, but to keep the evidence and show or give it to their parent or a member of staff;
- Advice on other aspects of the code to prevent re-occurrence;
- Advice on how the perpetrator might be blocked from the individual's site or services;
- Actions, where possible and appropriate, to have offending material removed;
- Advice to consider changing email addresses and / or mobile phone numbers;
- Discuss contacting the police in cases of suspected illegal content.

Investigation:

Again, the nature of any investigation will depend on the circumstances. It may include, for example,

- Review of evidence and advice to preserve it, for example by saving or printing (e.g. phone messages, texts, emails, website pages);
- Efforts to identify the perpetrator, which may include looking at the media, systems and sites used. Witnesses may have useful information;
- Contact with the LA Safeguarding department and the police if images might be illegal or raise child protection issues;
- Staff do not have the authority to search the contents of mobile phones or other devices.

Working with the perpetrator:

Work with the perpetrator and any sanctions will be determined on an individual basis, in accordance with the Anti-Bullying Policy, with the intention of:

- Helping the person harmed to feel safe again and be assured that the bullying will stop;
- Holding the perpetrator to account, so they recognise the harm caused and do not repeat the behaviour;
- Helping the bully to recognise the consequences of their actions and facilitating change in their attitude and behaviour;
- Demonstrating that cyber bullying, as any other form of bullying, is unacceptable and that the school has effective ways of dealing with it.

Evaluating the effectiveness of counter bullying procedures:

- Members of staff will be report and incidents of cyber bullying to the Head Teacher;
- The Head Teacher will review any serious incident within three months of the school dealing with any reported cases and will ensure that an annual review of the cyber bullying procedures is carried out;
- The review will take into account comments and suggested areas for development from staff and pupils, including the digital leaders and school council.