



Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy

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Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy for Coralstown N.S.

Coralstown National School aims to ensure that children are safe and feel safe from bullying, harassment and discrimination. This school is committed to teaching children the knowledge and skills to be able to use Information and Communication Technology effectively, safely and responsibly.

WHAT IS CYBER-BULLYING?

There are many types of cyber-bullying. The more common types are:

1. **Text messages** – can be threatening or cause discomfort. Also included here is 'Bluejacking' (the sending of anonymous text messages over short distances using bluetooth wireless technology)
2. **Picture/video-clips via mobile phone cameras** – images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed
3. **Mobile phone calls** – silent calls, abusive messages or stealing the victim's phone and using it to harass others, to make them believe the victim is responsible
4. **Emails** – threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else's name
5. **Chat room bullying** – menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room
6. **Instant messaging (IM)** – unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real-time conversations online using MSM (Microsoft Messenger), Yahoo Chat or similar tools
7. **Bullying via websites** – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal 'own web space' sites such as You Tube, Facebook, SnapChat, Twitter, etc. – although there are others.

No pupil under 14 years is permitted to register with facebook: It is against the law.

Currently in Ireland the Age of Digital Consent is 16 years of age.

Staff and pupils may be the victims of cyber-bullying.

Aims of Policy:

- To ensure that pupils, staff and parents/guardians understand what cyber bullying is and how it can be combated
- To ensure that practices and procedures are agreed to prevent incidents of cyber bullying
- To ensure that reported incidents of cyber bullying are dealt with effectively and quickly.

Understanding Cyber bullying:

- Cyber bullying is the use of ICT (usually a mobile phone and or the internet) to abuse another person
- It can take place anywhere and involve many people
- Anybody can be targeted including pupils and school staff
- It can include threats, intimidation, harassment, cyber-stalking, vilification, defamation, exclusion, peer rejection, impersonation, unauthorized publication of private information or images etc.

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Cyber-bullying is different in that it takes place in unsupervised places/spaces with social rules being suspended. The scale and scope of cyber-bullying can be greater than other forms of bullying. It is the task of parents/guardians to supervise and teach their children in relation to cyber-bullying and its consequences. This is an issue for families, the community, society and schools.

Procedures to prevent Cyber bullying:

- Staff, pupils, parents/guardians and Board of Management to be made aware of issues surrounding cyber-bullying
- Pupils and parents will be urged to report all incidents of cyber bullying to the school
- Staff CPD (Continuous Professional Development) will assist in learning about current technologies
- Pupils will learn about cyber bullying through Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), assemblies, friendship week activities and other curriculum projects
- Pupils will sign an Acceptable Use of IT contract
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on how to combat cyber bullying
- Parents/guardians will be expected to sign an Acceptable Use of IT contract prior to enrolment and to discuss its meaning with their children
- Pupils, parents/guardians and staff will be involved in reviewing and revising this policy and school procedure
- All reports of cyber-bullying will be investigated, recorded, stored in the Principal's office and monitored regularly
- The school will engage a speaker to facilitate a workshop on cyber bullying for 5th and 6th classes annually.
- Procedures in our school 's Anti-Bullying Policy and Code of Discipline Policy shall apply if a pupil engages in cyberbullying.
- The Gardaí will be contacted in cases of actual or suspected illegal content
- This policy will be reviewed annually.

Information for Pupils

If you're being bullied by phone or the Internet:

- 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/guardian or call an advice line.
- 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.
- Don't give out your personal details online – if you're in a chat room, watch what you say about where you live, the school you go to, your email address etc. All these things can help someone who wants to harm you to build up a picture about you.
- Keep and save any bullying emails, text messages or images. Then you can show them to a parent/guardian or teacher as evidence.
- If you can, make a note of the time and date bullying messages or images were sent, and note any details about the sender
- There's plenty of online advice on how to react to cyber bullying. For example, www.webwise.ie www.reachout.com and www.wiredsafety.org have some useful tips.

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Text/video messaging

- You can easily stop receiving text messages for a while by turning-off incoming messages for a couple of days. This might stop the person texting you by making them believe you've changed your phone number
- If the bullying persists, you can change your phone number. Ask your mobile service provider about this.
- Don't reply to abusive or worrying text or video messages. Your mobile service provider will have a number for you to ring or text to report phone bullying
- Visit their website for details.
- Don't delete messages from cyber bullies. You don't have to read them, but you should keep them as evidence.

Useful Websites

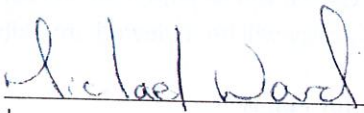
www.webwise.ie
www.childnet.int.org
www.antibullying.net
www.kidsmart.org.uk/beingsmart
www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/cyber-bullying
www.childline.ie/index.php/support/bullying/1395
<http://ie.reachout.com>
www.kidpower.org
www.sticksandstones.ie
www.abc.tcd.ie

This Policy runs in conjunction with Coralstown NS Bullying Policy.

Signed: 

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 25th June 2024

Signed: 

Principal

Date: 25th June 2024

Date of next review June 2025