

Beaminster School

Policy and Procedures Statement



<i>Title: Anti Cyber-Bullying Policy</i>	<i>Management: Deputy Headteacher</i>
<i>Date approved: October 2024</i>	<i>Review date: October 2027</i>

Policy

Beaminster School is committed to living out its core values of Ambition, Service and Kindness. We seek to develop a safe environment where the students act respectfully and positively towards each other and to staff in acceptable and non-threatening ways. Beaminster School provides its own email system and both staff and students are expected to use this system.

Definition

Cyber-bullying is when someone is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed, or otherwise targeted by a member of the school community using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. It has to be a student on both sides, or at least to have been instigated by a student.

Terms of Reference

This policy statement has been developed in consultation with all sections of the school community, reflects current advice and is informed by statutory requirements. Staff will monitor and deter cyber-bullying in school. Cyber-bullying often happens off school grounds, not on school computer equipment, and outside of school hours. The school reserves the right to discipline students for actions taken if they are intended to have a detrimental effect on another student or they adversely affect the safety and well-being of student while in school.

Procedure

The School will:

- Support staff in the use of ICT as an essential tool for learning and in the embedding of e-safety across the whole school curriculum.
- Ensure that pupils are aware, through e-safety education, of the potential e-safety risks associated with the use of ICT and mobile technologies, that all e-safety concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively, that pupils feel able and safe to report incidents and that pupils abide by the schools e-safety policy.
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers to receive e-safety education and information, to enable them to support their children in developing good e-safety behaviour. The school will report back to parents / carers regarding e-safety concerns. Parents / carers will work with the school to uphold the e-safety policy.

Staff will:

Ensure all forms of cyber-bullying are prohibited at Beaminster 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; a code of conduct is in use for technology, including computers and mobile phones, whilst on the school premises; the appropriate programs in lessons and tutorials are developed and implemented; all cases of cyber-bullying are reported to a member of the leadership team and responded to promptly; there is supervision of technology that is effective for monitoring and deterring cyber-bullying in school.

Students will:

Have a responsibility to ensure that they: do not participate in cyber-bullying; do not use mobile phones, cameras or other digital devices to record audio or visual material that is not authorised as part of the school curriculum program; do not breach the privacy of students, staff or 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.

Procedure

- All incidents will be acted upon immediately
- Any persons involved will be spoken to immediately
- Cyber-bullying will be regarded as harassment
- Victims will have the opportunity to report this to the relevant authorities
- Different levels of offence will be recognised
- Restorative justice is seen as an appropriate route forward for any incident.