Cyber-Bullying Policy

To create a school that unlocks the potential of every child

لإنشاء مدرسةٍ قادرةٍ على إطلاق العنان لإمكانات كل طفل

This procedure is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Approved/reviewed by	
Head of Primary & Secondary	
Date of review	August 2023
Date of next review	August 2024

Safa British School Cyber-Bullying Policy

Cyber Bullying

The School recognises that excellence in education requires that technology is seamlessly integrated throughout the educational program. Increasing access to technology is essential for that future. We also recognise that technology plays an important and positive role in everyone's lives, both educationally and socially. This policy is committed to helping all members of the school community to understand both the benefits and the risks of technology, and to equip children with the knowledge and skills to be able to use technology safely and responsibly.

Research into cyber bullying indicates that it is a feature of many young people's lives. Cyber bullying, like all other forms of bullying, should be taken very seriously. It is never acceptable.

SBS will deal with all cases of cyber bullying which occur during school hours in line with our Behaviour for Learning Policy.

The policies, procedures and information within this document apply to all wireless mobile devices used at SBS during school hours, including any other device considered by the Leadership Team to come under this policy.

Definition of Cyberbullying:
Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others.

As the world becomes more and more digital, so do our children's lives. More now than ever children are connected to the internet through online games, social media and messaging platforms which means cyberbullying remains an ever-present risk. Indeed, research suggests that about 37% of young people between the ages of 12 and 17 have been bullied online. 30% have had it happen more than once in their lives. ''National Online Safety UK.''

Cyberbullying can involve Social Networking Sites, emails and mobile phones used for SMS messages and as cameras. In addition;
- It can be used to carry out all the different types of bullying; an extension of face-to-face bullying
- It can also go further in that it can invade home/personal space and can involve a greater number of people
- It can take place across age groups
- School staff and other adults can be targeted

- It can draw bystanders into being accessories
- It includes: threats and intimidation; harassment or 'cyberstalking'; vilification; exclusion or peer rejection; Impersonation; and manipulation
- It includes cyber stalking, e.g. repeatedly sending unwanted texts, defamation
- It includes the circulation of private information or images

It can be an illegal act, as in the UAE, it is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information in any media including internet sites.

Policy Procedure

Safa British School educates students both in the proper use of technology and about the serious consequences of cyberbullying and will, through curriculum links, Digital Literacy Framework and assemblies, continue to inform and educate its students in these fast-changing areas.

Safa British School is registered with ''The National Online Safety UK,'' and will regularly use information and webinars to inform the school community on issues of importance.

All students and teachers must sign the Code of Conduct agreement for their behaviour whilst on the school site.

All members of the School community are aware they have a duty to bring to the attention of the Head of School any example of cyber-bullying or harassment or misuse of technology that they know about or suspect is happening/has happened during the course of the school working hours.

Safa British School endeavours to block access to inappropriate web sites, using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems. If students are seen to use sites/apps that are blocked on our school system, interventions in line with our Behaviour for Learning Policy will be enforced.

Students are only permitted to use devices connected to the internet with permission from a teacher.

Whilst education and guidance remain at the heart of what we do, SBS will take action against those who take part in cyber-bullying during the school hours, in line with the guidelines in the Anti-Bullying policy and Behaviour for Learning Policy.

SBS will keep records of in-school cyberbullying incidents on CPOMS or Class Charts- this will be decided on a case by case basis.

Students are encouraged to report any suspicions of cyberbullying happening during the school day to a member of staff.

Roles and Responsibilities:
Staff
- Staff will investigate Cyber Bullying in line with the Behaviour for Learning Policy.
- Decisions regarding the outcomes of Cyber Bullying cases will be made by the Designated Safeguarding Lead in conjunction with the Head of Primary/Secondary and Principal.

Students:

Should follow the school's code of conduct / behaviour policy, when online during school hours. When this is not followed, sanctions in line with the Behaviour for Learning Policy will be implemented.

It is acceptable to disagree with someone else's opinions, however, do it in a respectful way. What is inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate online.

Students:

- Must speak to an adult as soon as possible if they believe someone is a victim on cyberbullying during the course of the school day
- Should not answer abusive messages sent during the school day, but save them and report them
- Should not delete anything sent during the school day until it has been shown to parents or a member of staff at SBS(even if it is upsetting, the material is important evidence which may need to be used later as proof of cyberbullying)
- Should not give out personal IT details
- Should never reply to abusive e-mails or messages in chat rooms or other social media throughout the course of the school day
- Should never reply to someone they do not know
- Should not connect to their personal VPN's during the course of the school day

Parents

- It is vital that parents and the school work together to ensure that all students are aware of the serious consequences of getting involved in anything that might be seen to be cyberbullying. The school will provide workshops to support parents in monitoring student's online behaviours.
- Parents can help by making sure their child understands the school's policy and the acceptable use of their devices during the school hours
- Parents should also explain to their children the UAE legal issues relating to cyberbullying
- Parents should monitor and guide their children on acceptable online behaviour outside of the school setting.

Applicable to:

All school staff

Related Documents

Acceptable Device Use Policy
Online Safety Policy
Code of Conduct
Anti-bullying Policy
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy