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# Cyber Bullying Policy

Date of Publication: July 2018

Date of Review: July 2020

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Date:	July 2018
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Date:	July 2018
Nominated Governor:	Alwyn Reeves and Hamish Cherrett
Date:	July 2018
Ratified by Governing Board:	Co-chair of Governors
Date:	July 2018

## Our Vision

Our vision is to create the best possible environment in which to stimulate the personal and social growth of the children in our school, whilst promoting high quality teaching and learning. This is to be achieved through our Rainbow Values and our vision to be an 'EPICentre of Outstanding Learning'

At the EPICentre of our school are our core values (colours of the Rainbow) and learning behaviours that underpin everything we strive to achieve together.

The Governing Board of our school make arrangements for ensuring that their functions relating to the conduct of the school are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are pupils at our school.

The Staff and Governing Board of Exminster Community Primary School recognises its' collective responsibility to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and young people in accordance with its statutory responsibility under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and where appropriate under the Children Acts.



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## **What is cyber bullying?**

"Cyber bullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual, using electronic forms of contact, repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend him or herself."

Seven categories of cyber bullying have been identified:

- Text message bullying involves sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort.
- Picture/video-clip bullying via mobile phone cameras is used to make the person being bullied feel threatened or embarrassed, with images usually sent to other people. 'Happy slapping' involves filming and sharing physical attacks.
- Phone call bullying via mobile phone uses silent calls or abusive messages. Sometimes the bullied person's phone is stolen and used to harass others, who then think the phone owner is responsible. As with all mobile phone bullying, the perpetrators often disguise their numbers, sometimes using someone else's phone to avoid being identified.
- Email bullying uses email to send bullying or threatening messages, often using a pseudonym for anonymity or using someone else's name to pin the blame on them.
- Chat room bullying involves sending menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room.
- Bullying through instant messaging is an Internet-based form of bullying where children and young people are sent unpleasant messages as they conduct real-time conversations online.
- Bullying via websites includes the use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal polling sites. There has also been a significant increase in social networking sites for young people, which can provide new opportunities for cyber bullying.

## **What can schools do about it?**

While other forms of bullying remain prevalent, cyber bullying is already a significant issue for many young people. Exminster Community Primary School recognise that staff, parents and young people need to work together to prevent this and to tackle it whenever it occurs.

**School Governors, Head teachers and schools have a duty to ensure that: bullying via mobile phone or the Internet is included in their mandatory anti-bullying policies, that these policies are regularly updated, and that teachers have sufficient knowledge to deal with cyber bullying in school.**

Exminster Community Primary School ensures that:

- the curriculum teaches pupils about the risks of new communications technologies, the consequences of their misuse, and how to use them safely including personal rights
- all e-communications used on the school site or as part of school activities off-site are monitored
- Internet blocking technologies are continually updated and harmful sites blocked where possible
- they work with pupils and parents to make sure new communications technologies are used safely, taking account of local and national guidance and good practice
- security systems are in place to prevent images and information about pupils and staff being



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- accessed improperly from outside school
- they work with police and other partners on managing cyber bullying

### **ICT and Mobile Phone Policy**

If a cyber-bullying incident directed at a child occurs using e-mail, apps or mobile phone technology, either inside or outside school time, Exminster Community Primary School will take the following steps:

- Advise the child not to respond to the message
- Refer to relevant policies, e.g. e-safety/acceptable use and apply appropriate sanctions
- Secure and preserve any evidence
- Inform the sender's e-mail service provider
- Notify parents of the children involved
- Consider informing the police depending on the severity or repetitious nature of the offence. The school recognises that some cyber bullying activities could be a criminal offence under a range of different laws including: the Protection from Harassment Act 1997; the Malicious Communication Act 1988; section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 and the Public Order Act 1986
- Inform the LA e-safety officer

### **If malicious or threatening comments are posted on an Internet site or Social Networking Site about a pupil or member of staff, Exminster Community Primary School will also:**

- Inform and request that the comments be removed if the site is administered externally
- Secure and preserve any evidence
- Send all the evidence to [www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)
- Endeavour to trace the origin and inform the police as appropriate.
- Inform the LA e-safety officer

### **Code of Conduct**

Exminster Community Primary School Digital Leaders will work together with the ICT Subject Leader, on behalf of the school, to produce a code of conduct that references our approach and attitudes towards cyber bullying.