

# HEBBURN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL



## POLICY AND GUIDELINES

### CYBER-BULLYING

[This document should be read in conjunction with the  
Whole-school Anti-Bullying Policy]

Approved by Governors: December 2009

Review Date: December 2010

## Rationale

It is undeniable that bullying can put the emotional well-being and educational achievement of pupils at risk and can have a significant and lasting negative impact upon children's lives. In addition, it impacts on truancy, exclusions, participation in further or higher education and can engender deliberate self-injury.

Research suggests that cyber-bullying now affects one in five pupils; against this backdrop, in Hebburn Comprehensive School we believe that we have a duty of care to protect young people from the negative side of Information and Communications Technology.

## What is Cyber-bullying?

Cyber-bullying involves the use of new information and communication devices to bully, harass or intimidate an individual or group of young people.

## Examples of Cyber-bullying

- Spreading, via electronic means, of gossip or untrue information; posting private information, messages and pictures online or forwarding these to a third party.
- Threats or abuse made by email/mobile phone or any other digital device.
- Impersonation of the victim and creation of a fake profile page.
- Filming harassment and/or intimidation on a mobile phone or digital camera and disseminating it online or circulating it among peer groups by e-mail or mobile phone.

## What is the nature of the problems?

Cyber-bullying can be conducted 24 hours a day, seven days a week and:

- It follows young people into their private space way beyond school hours.
- It can be anonymous.
- The audience can be large and reached rapidly.
- A single incident can be experienced as a multiple attack.
- Bystanders can become accessories by passing on a humiliating, unpleasant, derogatory or threatening message.
- Messages on social networking sites remain there to damage social life and friendships.

## What can we do to protect ourselves and others from cyber-bullying?

- Always keep passwords safe – it is better to use a combination of letters and numbers.
- Change passwords regularly.
- SPAM/Junk emails & texts: do not believe them, do not reply to them or do other than delete them.
- Remember, it is not a good idea to open files that are from people you do not know as they may contain viruses or inappropriate material.
- Do not give out any private information to people you do not know.
- Remember that any photograph you upload online can be shared by the world.
- We leave a trail online that can be traced. People have been prosecuted.
- Do not say anything online that you would not say to someone's face.
- Report abuse on the internet.

Remember: All pupils' areas are monitored in school!

You can report any form of bullying online at:

[bullying@hebburn.s-tyneside.sch.uk](mailto:bullying@hebburn.s-tyneside.sch.uk)

and cyber-bullying online at:

[www.ceop.gov.uk/reportabuse/cyberbullying.asp](http://www.ceop.gov.uk/reportabuse/cyberbullying.asp)

