



Cyberbullying Policy

Introduction:

To support schools to create safe, and respectful school environments and prevent cyberbullying and other unacceptable behaviours.

Scope:

This policy applies to all members of the St Augustine's Primary School community, during school hours.

Online activities such as social media that occur offsite and out of hours, fall outside of the scope of this policy. However, the staff may choose to address some of these as a learning opportunity, and due to the impact these may have to relationships within the school.

What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is the direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviours using digital technologies. This includes harassment via a mobile phone, setting up a defamatory personal website or deliberately excluding someone from social networking spaces.

Direct verbal bullying: name calling, insults, teasing, intimidation, homophobic or racist remarks, or verbal abuse.

Indirect bullying: action designed to harm someone's social reputation and/or cause humiliation.

Indirect bullying includes:

- lying and spreading rumours
- playing nasty jokes to embarrass and humiliate
- encouraging others to socially exclude someone
- damaging someone's social reputation or social acceptance

Cyberbullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

What is not Cyberbullying:

Many distressing behaviours are not examples of cyberbullying even though they are unpleasant and often require teacher intervention and management.

- Mutual conflict: involves an argument or disagreement between people but not an imbalance of power.

St Augustine's Primary School	System Update: 21. 10. 2019
Version 0.1	Date of Next Review: 21. 10. 2022



- Social rejection or dislike: is not bullying unless it involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others
- Single-episode acts: of online nastiness are not the same as bullying.

Implementation:

The School Staff will:

- promote and support safe and respectful learning environments where bullying is not tolerated
- put in place whole-school strategies and initiatives as outlined our Student Welfare Policies and Procedures
- take a whole-school approach focusing on safety and wellbeing.
- provide an age-appropriate acceptable use agreement (AUA), for the students to sign and parents to countersign
- annually, offer workshops to teach Students, teachers and parents about Cyber Safety
- promote appropriate online behaviours through our literacy, Social and Emotional Learning and Digital Technologies programs
- communicate the E Smart policy to all staff, which underpins our approach to keeping children safe in an online environment
- update and revise our E Smart policy as per policy renewal schedule

Incident Management and Reporting

Cyberbullying is bullying and the approach to managing and reporting incidents is largely consistent with the approaches articulated in the anti-bullying policy. The actions deviate only in regard to fact a student will also have breached the AUA, and there are consequences outlined that relate to each breach. This is being continually refined as part of our E Smart policy review.

References:

SAP- ESmart

SAP - Anti-Bullying Policy

SAP - Acceptable Use Policy