Cyber Bullying
POLICY

Purpose

- To support the promotion of a safe and respectful school environment.
- To prevent and address all forms of bullying, cyber bullying.
- To ensure everyone feels safe, included and treated with respect all the time.
- To work proactively to provide a positive culture and to show that no form of bullying is tolerated at our school.

Definition

Cyberbullying is direct or indirect bullying behaviour using digital technologies. This includes harassment via a mobile phone, setting up a defamatory website, or deliberately excluding someone from social networking spaces. This includes people who use the internet, email, intranets, phones or similar technologies to bully others

Guidelines

- To reinforce the fact that cyberbullying is unacceptable.
- To ensure the school community is alert to signs and evidence of cyberbullying and undertakes responsibility to report it to staff, whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of cyberbullying are investigated appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To encourage parental support and cooperation at all times.

Implementation

Prevention

Proactive approaches in place at Ocean Grove Primary school (Primary Prevention).

- Each classroom teacher to clarify with students at the start of each year the school policy on cyberbullying.
- Specific teaching of the safe use of technologies for students in all year levels. This includes 8 weeks of specific teaching:
    - Internet safety awareness presentations
    - Cyber safety presentations - YouTube, Seesaw etiquette, eSmart guidelines
      https://www.esmartschools.org.au/
- All students sign an Acceptable Use agreement at the commencement of the year to encourage cyber safe behaviour. These agreements relate to:

- Using technology for learning.
- Reporting any inappropriate material or usage.
- Use of devices in a safe and positive manner.
- Confiding in an adult if cyberbullying is heard of or sighted.

- Professional development for staff relating to all forms of bullying including cyberbullying.
- All students to be provided with individual and confidential computer and network logins and passwords.
- YouTube filtered for students and other filters applied to educational sites.
- Processes to be put in place to ensure tracking of student activity on the school's computer equipment and network.
- Firewalls installed to protect traffic into the school's network and Intranet.
- Home login pages set to the eduweb site.
- Community awareness and input relating to bullying (including cyberbullying), its characteristics and the school's programs and response.

Addressing Cyberbullying.

Early Intervention.

- Encourage children and staff to report bullying incidents involving themselves or others.
- Classroom teachers and Principal to remind students on a regular basis to report incidents of bullying.
- Regular monitoring of student traffic on school's computer networks to identify potential problems.
- Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they become aware of a problem.
- A student may voluntarily approach a teacher for assistance if they have become aware of or have engaged in cyberbullying or related behaviour.
- A student may be identified as needing help as a result of involvement in an incident requiring disciplinary action.
- School staff need to inform the school executive about concerns relating to students engaging in, or being a subject of cyberbullying.
- Any special programs which the school provides, e.g. Cyber Safety presentations - Robbie Noggler visits, Project Rockit & eSmart incursions

Intervention.

- School rules prohibit the inappropriate and threatening use of email, Facebook, Twitter, internet and mobile phone facilities both in the school, at any school function and away from school where the behaviour seriously impacts on other students or staff at the school.

- If any of these rules are broken, investigation and possible disciplinary action will be undertaken.
- A range of actions are available, depending on individual circumstances.
- These include:
    - No disciplinary action required
    - Student(s) put on a contract
    - Student (s) required to undergo counselling
    - Detention
    - Loss of computer privileges
    - Time out
- Once identified - each bully, victim and witness/es will be spoken with, and all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented.
- Parents of all parties will be contacted.

* A teacher's duty of care is activated once they become aware of any cyberbullying incident whether at school or home.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be made available publicly on our school website.

Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	November 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	November 2024