

SURFSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

CYBER-BULLYING POLICY



1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to support the promotion of a safe and respectful school environment and to prevent and address all forms of bullying, cyber bullying and other unacceptable behaviours at Surfside Primary School.

At Surfside Primary school we believe everyone is important, therefore everyone has the right to feel safe, included and treated with respect all the time.

Surfside Primary School is fully committed to protecting the safety of children and to treating all members of the school community with equality, dignity and respect regardless of their gender. The school recognises the prevalence and impact of gender based discrimination and harassment and is committed to building a school culture that challenges the stereotypes, power differences and social norms that foster inequality.

We work proactively to provide a positive culture. Bullying is not tolerated at our school.

2. AIMS

- To ensure the school community is alert to signs and evidence of cyber bullying and undertakes responsibility to report it to staff, whether as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of cyber bullying are investigated appropriately and that attention is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To ensure prevention programs are embedded in all levels of student learning.
- To encourage parental support and co-operation at all times.

3. DEFINITION OF CYBER-BULLYING:

Cyber-bullying 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.

Forms of cyber bullying may include:

- **Pranking:** Repeated hang ups, anonymous, mocking or threatening phone calls.
- **Image sharing:** Forwarding or sharing unflattering or private images without permission.
- **Sexually explicit images:** People of any age, who forward or share images of a sexual nature of a person under 18 need to be aware that this is a criminal offence (child pornography) that may result in prosecution.
- **Text and email:** Sending insulting or threatening text messages or emails.
- **Personal online information:** Publishing online someone's private, personal or embarrassing information without permission, or spreading rumours online.
- **Identity theft:** Assuming someone's identity online and negatively representing them in a way that damages their reputation or relationships.
- **Hate sites:** Creating hate sites or implementing social exclusion campaigns on social networking sites.
- **Other types of cyberbullying:** use of technology to run a multi-step campaign to bully another student. For example, setting another student up to be assaulted, video-recording their humiliation, posting the video-recording online and then sending the website address to others.

4. PREVENTION

Surfside Primary School believes that teaching cyber safety and responsible online behaviour is essential and is best taught in partnership between home and school. Students are spending increasing amounts of time online, learning and collaborating. To be safe online and to gain the greatest benefit from the opportunities provided through an online environment, students need to do the right thing by themselves and others online. The school promotes the values of respect and responsibility, expecting students to behave appropriately on line.

At home, we recommend that parents make time to set guidelines around use of devices. Ensure that all Internet activities occur in a shared space– not your child’s bedroom. Negotiate appropriate times for online activities and use of mobile phones.

The responsibility and expectation of digital citizenship

It is the expectation that students will be responsible digital citizens when participating in the Ipad Program, using the school’s ICT and their home or mobile devices. Students will be supported in developing digital citizenship through understanding the ethical, cultural and societal issues related to Information and Communication Technologies.

Students will practice responsible use of ICT and develop positive attitudes towards ICT that foster lifelong learning, personal growth, collaboration and productivity. As part of their digital citizenship students are required to read and agree to an Acceptable Use Agreement and the Surfside Primary School Electronic Device Code of Conduct.

Acceptable Use Agreement & Surfside Primary School Electronic Device Code of Conduct

All students and a parent/carer are required to read, understand and sign an Acceptable Use Agreement at the commencement of each school year. This governs the requirements and expectations under which students use the school computers, access the network and internet. This is a standard expectation, not only from Surfside Primary School but also the Department of Education and Training (DET.)

Pro-active approaches in place at Surfside Primary school (Primary Prevention):

- Specific teaching of the safe use of technologies for students in the SLC. This includes:
 - Internet safety awareness presentations
 - Teaching of topic specific curriculum using the Cyber Teach toolkit and bully stoppers
 - http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/cyber_teach.aspx
 - <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/advicacyberbully.aspx>
- All students sign an acceptable use agreement at the commencement of the year to encourage cybercafé behaviour. These agreements relates to:
 - Using I-Pads for learning
 - Reporting any inappropriate material or usage
 - Use of email in a positive manner
 - Confiding in an adult if cyber bullying is heard of or sighted.
- Professional development for staff relating to all forms of bullying including cyber bullying.

- All students to be provided with individual and confidential computer and network logins and passwords.
- You-tube blocked for students and filters applied to educational sites.
- Firewalls installed to protect traffic into the school's network and intranet.
- Community awareness and input relating to bullying (including cyber-bullying), its characteristics and the schools' programs and response.
- The use of mobile phones by students will be limited with consequences to implement for any students who use mobile phones inappropriately

5. ADDRESSING CYBER BULLYING

5.1 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 cyber bullying or related behaviour.
- A student may be identified as needing help as a result of involvement in an incident requiring disciplinary action.
- School staff needs to inform the school executive about concerns relating to students engaging in, or being subject of cyber bullying.
- Any special programs which the school provides, e.g. the School's Anti-Bullying, Cyber safety Program, Peer Support should be referred to.

5.2 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. Forms of bullying, including, harassment, discrimination, sexism, or exclusion will not be tolerated.
- 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 i-Pad 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.
 - For further support with online issues students can call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.

- Parents/carers can call Parentline on 132289 or visit <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/report.aspx>

This Surfside Primary School Policy is to reviewed annually by School Council and staff.