



Overbury CE First School Anti Cyber Bullying Policy

January 2026

Discover, nurture and share God's gifts

At Overbury First School, we believe God has given each of us special gifts to enable us to learn and flourish as unique children of God. We seek to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly, fostering an environment where everyone is treated equitably and pupils develop into compassionate responsible individuals who take care of each other, our community and the world in which we live.

Introduction

Our expectations of our school community's behaviour and attitudes are underpinned by:

- Our school vision
- Our school ethos - We look out for others
- Our Christian Values - Generosity, Joy, Service, Forgiveness, Justice, Respect, Thankfulness, Compassion, Courage, Friendship, Wisdom, Truthfulness
- Our Learning Behaviours

We also have due regard for these, whenever applicable and possible, within our learning. Our values are rooted in the teaching of Jesus Christ. Central to our policy is our school ethos 'We look out for others.'

"And so encourage one another and help one another.....at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people." 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15.

Overbury CE First School, as part of the Bredon Cluster, believes that all people in our community have the right to teach and learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. We believe that every individual in school has a **responsibility** to report any incident of bullying whether it happens to themselves or to another person. Cyber bullying (see Appendix A) has an amplifying affect as the perceived anonymity gives tremendous power to the bully and can dampen usual empathy.

Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006

'Head teachers have the power 'to such extent as is reasonable' to regulate the conduct of pupils when they are off-site or not under the control or

charge of a member of staff. This is of particular significance to cyber bullying, which is often likely to take place out of school, but which can impact very strongly on the school life of the pupils involved.'

(Let's Fight it Together - Childnet International and DCSF 2007)

Therefore, there will be zero tolerance of any type of bullying (including cyber) in school, the playground or out of school time.

At Overbury First School, we take cyber bullying as seriously as all other types of bullying and, therefore, will deal with each situation individually. All forms of bullying will be logged on the appropriate incident sheets to ensure that repeat offending is quickly recognised.

1. How are Pupils Prepared to Deal with This?

At Overbury School, pupils are taught to:

- Understand how to use these technologies safely and know about the risks and consequences of misusing them - using Project Evolve and 'Think You Know'.
- Look out for others and know what to do if they, or someone they know, are being cyber bullied;
- Take **responsibility** and report any problems with cyber bullying;
- If they do have a problem, they are clear as to what action they should take talking in the first instance to their parents/teacher.

At Overbury First School we have:

- An Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) that includes clear statements about e-communications;
- Support for parents and pupils if cyber bullying occurs by assessing the harm caused, identifying those involved, taking steps to repair harm and to prevent recurrence. This will include responding to cyber bullying received from persons out of the immediate school environment. Cluster Schools will work together to ensure cyber bullying does not occur across the cluster schools.

The anti-cyber bullying policy is relevant to all children, regardless of their ability, race, gender, religion, social background, culture or disability. Outside agencies are involved when appropriate, and staff will receive training in dealing with the emotional needs of some children, which might affect their behaviour.

2. Responding to Incidences

Advice to pupils (see Appendix B) is available through the school website and appropriate posters will be displayed around the school.

Each case of reported cyber bullying will be treated individually because each case is different. Nevertheless, all incidences are investigated and would usually be reported to the class teacher in the first instance.

The following will enable us to deal appropriately with an incident:

- ✓ Making sure that a victim knows to whom they can safely talk
- ✓ Responding promptly and consistently to all incidents
- ✓ Involving pupils and parents in procedures to deal with cyber bullying (including across schools)
- ✓ Protecting the safety of any bullied child
- ✓ Ensuring that the child knows how to stay safe on line
- ✓ Where possible, working with the bullies as well as the victim, to ensure that all are aware of the seriousness of their actions
- ✓ Keeping all parents informed
- ✓ Provide ongoing support for the victim and their class including internet safety training through CEOP and continue to monitor the situation
- ✓ Record incidents of cyber bullying to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy
- ✓ Report incidents of cyber bullying to WCC as required

If the cyber bullying is serious and a potential criminal offence has been committed, the school will contact the police.

3. For Parents and Carers:

Appendix B has in-depth guidance for minimising the risks and affects of cyber bullying. Parents and carers should be aware that the pupils have been taught about responsible behaviour based upon this information. Incidents of cyber bullying at home, or outside school, should be raised with the pupil's class teacher in the first instance.

Other advice on how to react to cyber bullying, for example, [Thinkuknow](#) is available on the web.

5. Role of the Governors

Governors monitor and check that the school policy is upheld and can also offer guidance where a member of the body has particular expertise in this area.

6. Monitoring and review

All staff in our school are responsible for ensuring this policy is maintained from day to day. The school rules and the playground rules are reviewed at least once a year. This policy will be reviewed on the 3 yearly cycle.

7. Other relevant policies

This policy should be considered in conjunction with the following policies:

- *Behaviour policy*
- *Anti- bullying policy*

- *Safeguarding and child protection policy*
- *Peer on peer abuse policy*
- *Online safety policy*
- *Relationships Education*

Appendix A

What is cyber bullying?

There are many types of cyber bullying. Although there may be some of which we are unaware, here are the more common types.

1. **Text messages** —that are threatening or cause discomfort - also included here is "blue jacking" (the sending of anonymous text messages over short distances using "Bluetooth" wireless technology)
2. **Picture/video-clips** via mobile phone cameras - images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed.
3. **Mobile phone calls** — silent calls or abusive messages; or stealing the victim's phone and using it to harass others, to make them believe the victim is responsible.
4. **Emails** — threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else's name.
5. **Chat room bullying** — menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in web-based chatroom.
6. **Instant messaging (IM)** — unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real-time conversations online using MSM (Microsoft Messenger) or Yahoo Chat - although there are others.
7. **Bullying via websites** — use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal "own web space" sites such as Bebo (which works by signing on in one's school, therefore making it easy to find a victim) and MySpace - although there are others - including Facebook which is meant for over 12s only.

Technology allows the user to bully anonymously or from an unknown location, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Cyber bullying leaves no physical scars so it is, perhaps, less evident to a parent or teacher, but it is highly intrusive and the hurt it causes can be very severe.

Young people are particularly adept at adapting to new technology, an area that can seem a closed world to adults. For example, the numerous acronyms used by young people in chat rooms and in text messages (POS - Parents Over Shoulder, TUL - Tell You Later) make it difficult for adults to recognise potential threats.

Appendix B

Key Safety Advice for Pupils and Adults including Parents:

Three steps to stay out of harm's way

- **Respect** other people - online and off. Don't spread rumours about people or share their secrets, including their phone numbers and passwords.
- If someone insults you online or by phone, stay calm - and ignore them.
- 'Do as you would be done by.' Think how you would feel if you were bullied.
- Follow our school vision and ethos at all times, taking care and looking out for others.

Everyone is **responsible** for their own behaviour - make sure you don't distress other people or cause them to be bullied by someone else.

- Remember, as a victim, bullying is never your fault. It can be stopped and it can usually be traced.
- Always **respect** others - be careful what you say online and what images you send.
- Think before you send - whatever you send can be made public very quickly and could stay online forever.
- Don't give out your personal details online - if you're in a chatroom, watch what you say about where you live, the school you go to, your email address etc. All these things can help someone who wants to harm you build up a picture about you.
- Treat your password like your toothbrush - keep it to yourself. Only give your mobile number or personal website address to trusted friends.
- Block and report the bully - learn how to block or report someone who is behaving badly.
- Try to keep calm. If you are frightened, try to show it as little as possible. Don't get angry, it will only make the person bullying you more likely to continue.
- Don't retaliate or reply.
- Save the evidence - learn how to keep records of offending messages, pictures of online conversations.
- Don't ignore the bullying - because it usually won't stop. So make sure you tell your teacher and your parents, they can help it to stop.