

Anti-cyber bullying Policy

St James Senior Boys' School

Technological developments such as the Internet and other forms of electronic communication have great educational and social benefits but can also be used to harm others. St James Senior Boys' School is committed to working with parents and pupils to address the issues that are presented in this area.

Aims of the Policy

The aim is to educate boys to use technology wisely and with consideration for others, as well as emphasising that it should not be used inappropriately or illegally.

Cyber bullying is the use of information and communication technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet deliberately to upset someone else (see *Cyber-bullying: safe to learn: embedding anti-bullying work in schools* (DCSF00658-2007, guidance issued by the Department for Children Schools and Families).

Cyber Safety: The School's Role

St James Senior Boys takes issues around cyber safety extremely seriously and takes the following steps to help educate, inform and assist pupils in this area:

- The School reinforces Internet safety messages to all pupils at regular intervals and at an age appropriate level through IT lessons, PSHE lessons and assemblies. Issues covered include the following: safe and appropriate use of social networking sites; the issues surrounding excessive use of games consoles, Internet gaming sites, mobile phones (especially texting) and social networking or messaging facilities; the sending of inappropriate photos via mobile phone or the Internet.
- We ensure all pupils and members of staff are informed of the School's ICT Acceptable Use Policy, which explains their responsibility for making safe and appropriate use of the School's computer systems.
- We follow the appropriate School disciplinary procedures in relation to any incident of misuse of ICT equipment or websites or of cyber bullying. (The School has the right to take action - even when the offence is committed outside of School - if it harms members of our community or brings the School into disrepute). See Exclusion Policy and Anti-Bullying Policies
- The School network uses filtering software, which amongst other things restricts access to social networking and gaming sites.

Advice to Parents on Cyber Safety

This advice is drawn from recommendations made by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP):

- Make yourself aware of the amount of time your child is using the Internet, chat facilities, games consoles and their mobile phones and whether this is excessive
- Consider carefully the location of the computer or laptop and whether your child would be better using it in a family area of the home
- Search on Google for your child's name and any online usernames they use. This is a valuable exercise for you and them to be able to see exactly how much information other people can see about them with very little difficulty
- Consider installing Internet monitoring software on your home computer(s)
- Talk to your child; both about the dangers of the Internet, but also about their general usage – be interested in what they are doing and keep a dialogue open so they feel able to talk to you if they do experience problems
- Ask your child to (or help them) set up appropriate privacy settings on Facebook.

Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual, using electronic forms of contact, against a victim who cannot easily defend him/herself. Mobile, Internet and wireless technologies have increased the pace of communication and brought benefits to users worldwide. Unfortunately, however, their popularity provides the opportunity for misuse through cyber bullying.

The seven main categories of cyber bullying are:

- 1) Text message bullying
- 2) Picture/video bullying via mobile phone cameras
- 3) Phone call bullying via mobile phone
- 4) Email bullying
- 5) Chat room or social network bullying
- 6) Bullying through instant messaging
- 7) Bullying via websites

Cyber bullying is explicitly referred to in St James Senior Boys' Anti-bullying Policy.

Monitoring

The School monitors pupils and staff usage of the internet over the school computer system. Usage is monitored by the Deputy Headmaster and the Designated Safeguarding lead on a regular basis. Pupils and parents are made aware under the School's Exclusions' Policy that the consequences of any inappropriate use will be serious.

Expectations of pupils

The IT rooms should only be used when there is a member of staff present and the rules posted in each room must be observed. Any attempt to abuse or interfere with the network or any School computer equipment will be regarded as an extremely serious offence and is likely to result in a boy being suspended or expelled. All computer activity in School is monitored.

Pupils must not use their mobile phones or any other on-line device without express permission from a teacher. There is a clear procedure of confiscation and detention if a pupil is found using a mobile device without permission – see Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

Pupils are responsible for their actions, conduct and behaviour on the internet in the same way that they are responsible during classes or at break time. Use of technology should be safe, responsible and legal. Exclusion is the likely consequence for any pupil found to be responsible for material on his own or another website that would be a serious breach of School rules in any other context. Any misuse of the internet will be dealt with under the School's Behaviour and Discipline Policy. Students are encouraged to talk to a teacher if they witness misuse by other pupils.

The School views very seriously any use of the Internet, e-mail and any other digital media or technology so as to conflict in any way with the School Code, to bring the School's name into disrepute, to cause hurt or distress to others (cyber bullying), or to have a negative impact on the School community in any way. Bullying incidents involving the use of technology will be dealt with under the School's Anti-bullying Procedures. If you think that you might have been bullied or if you think another person is being bullied, talk to a teacher about it as soon as possible.

If there is a suggestion that a child is at risk of abuse or significant harm, the matter will be dealt with under the School's Child Protection Procedures. If you are worried about something that you have seen on the internet, talk to a teacher about it as soon as possible.

The School's view applies whether or not a pupil is on the School premises, in the care of the School, wearing School uniform, on a School activity, and whether it is during or outside the School day.

The School is able to monitor pupils' use of School computers and the School network to access external websites.

The School does not discourage pupils' use of social networking sites, providing this is done safely and with consideration for others, themselves and the School. No boy should post photos, video clips or comments that could in any way be considered as harassment or an invasion of privacy, or which are embarrassing and hurtful. In general, boys should always ensure that they have secured the permission of anyone about whom they intend to post material.

Authorised by
Date

Effective date of the policy	
Circulation	[Governors / teaching staff / all staff / parents / pupils [on request]]