



دار المعرفة
dar al marefa



Cyberbullying Policy



Our Mission

Our mission is to build a consistent, challenging and safe learning environment that supports each child in exploring their capabilities, encourages them to respect other cultures and embrace the world with open-mindedness, tolerance and confidence.

Our Vision

Our vision is to create a community that fosters lifelong learning, is rooted in its values and beliefs, is open-minded, tolerant and appreciates diversity. Our graduates are principled and courageous individuals, ready to contribute to a more just and peaceful world.

Our Philosophy

To create our professional community of learners that:

Recognize the importance of our students achieving their personal learning goals.

Make student development at the center of all school decisions

Aspire our students to reach the highest internationalism and wellbeing

Enable the staff to become life-long learners through the development of their professional practice.

Cyberbullying Policy

Revised: September 2022

Review Date: September 2023

1. Rationale

As a school, we recognise that technology plays an important and positive role in everyone's lives, both educationally and socially. We believe that everyone in the school community has the right to learn and teach in a supportive, respectful and caring environment without fear of being bullied.

2. Aims

We are committed to helping all members of the school community to understand both the benefits and the risks, and to equip children with the knowledge and skills to be able to use technology safely and responsibly. This policy aims to ensure that:

1. Pupils, staff and parents know about cyberbullying and the consequences.
2. We have the knowledge, policies and procedures to prevent and, if necessary, to deal with cyber bullying within school or the school community.
3. We monitor the effectiveness of our procedures.

Definition of Cyberbullying

What is cyberbullying?

- Cyberbullying includes sending or posting harmful or upsetting text, images or messages using the internet, social media, phones or other digital technology.
- It can take many forms but can go even further than face to face bullying by invading home and personal space and can target one or more people.
- It can include threats, intimidation, harassment, defamation, exclusion or peer rejecting, impersonation and unauthorised publication of private information or images.

Cyberbullying can be carried out in many ways, including:

- Threatening, intimidating or upsetting emails, text or images.
- Threatening or embarrassing pictures, video clips or text.
- Silent or abusive phone calls or using the victim's phone to harass others, making them think the victim is responsible.
- Unpleasant messages or responses.

In some cases, these types of bullying or defamation can be a criminal offense.

3. Prevention of Cyberbullying

At Dar Al Marefa School, we have clear prevention strategies including:

- The Senior Leadership Team will oversee the practices and procedures outlined in this policy and monitor their effectiveness.
- Identification of signs of cyberbullying will be shared with staff.
- Pupils will be informed and taught about the risks and internet safety through Digital Literacy lessons and Wellbeing activities.
- Child Protection training by dedicated members of staff will include cyber bullying identification and what to do.
- Positive use of digital technology will be promoted throughout the school and reviewed and monitored by the Senior Leadership Team.
- Partnerships between home and school to encourage clear communication.

4. Support

If an incident of cyberbullying is reported by a pupil, staff member or parent, it will be investigated by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. This will involve:

- Review of evidence and advice to preserve it, for example saving or printing of messages.
- Investigation to identify the perpetrator by looking at the media, sites and discussions with any witnesses.
- Requesting a pupil to reveal digital technology content. Staff do not have the authority to search the contents of a device.
- Reporting incidents of cyberbullying to the Principal who will take the necessary action in taking this further.

As with any form of bullying, support for the individuals will be dependent on the circumstances. Emotional support via the child's classroom/homeroom/Counsellor/Wellbeing Leader will be provided as required.

5. Monitoring, Roles and Responsibilities

Children and members of staff will report any incidents of cyberbullying on ISAMs to the appropriate member of the Senior Management Team. The member of staff will then:

- Investigate and gather the required information or evidence
- Discuss incidents with any or all of the students involved
- Meet with parents to feedback information and next steps in moving forward

6. Reference Documents

Other policies supporting this document include:

- Behaviour Policy
- Social Media Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Antibullying Policy

7. Regulatory References

The Federal Law No. 5 2012 was issued by the President his Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nayhan and is commonly known as the 'Cyber Crimes Law'. It is the Cyber Crimes Law that provides the most practical recourse for victims of crimes involving technology.

Article 20 deals with slander: any person who insults a third party or has attributed to him an incident that may make him subject to punishment or contempt by a third party by using an Information Network or an Information Technology Tool shall be punished by imprisonment and a fine not less than (AED 250,000) and not exceeding (AED 500,000) or by any of these punishments.

Article 16 of the Cyber Crimes Law states that a perpetrator of an action that could be considered to be extortion shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of two years at most and a fine not less than AED 250,000 and not in excess of AED 500,000, or either of these two penalties. Accordingly, threatening to bully someone unless money is received may lead to severe penalties - the act of bullying does not have to eventuate, it can simply be threatened. If the extortioner uses the threat of bullying (eg; "I'll tell everyone that you...") in order to extract money or something of value from the victim, they may be found guilty under this law.

Article 15 of the New Cyber Crimes Law also states that it is an offence for persons to intentionally and without permission capture and/or intercept communications online.

8. Monitoring and Evaluating

The school has a committed Senior Leadership Team, all incidents involving cyberbullying are closely monitored in conjunction with Heads of Year/Homeroom teachers/Counsellor/Head of Wellbeing. All concerns are reported via the proper procedures.

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Enhancing Life by Nurturing Minds