



Rationale

Young people have fully embraced the use of information and communications technologies to maintain contact with friends and make new ones. They send emails, create their own websites, post intimate personal news in blogs (online interactive diaries), send text messages and images via mobile phones, message each other through IMs (instant messages), chat in chatrooms, post to discussion boards and see out new friends in teen community sites.

While most interactions are positive, there are increasing reports of these technologies being used to harass and intimidate others. This has become known as cyber bullying.

This policy is to be referred to in conjunction with the Bullying Prevention and Response Policy.

Definition

- **Bullying** is when someone, or a group of people, deliberately upset or hurt another person or damage their property, reputation or social acceptance on more than one occasion.
- **Cyber bullying** is direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviours using digital technologies. This includes harassment via a mobile phone, setting up a defamatory personal website or deliberately excluding someone from social networking spaces.

Aim

Altona Meadows Primary School is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and respectful school environment where the students act respectfully and positively towards each other in acceptable and non-threatening ways.

Altona Meadows Primary School is committed to preventing bullying, cyber bullying and other unacceptable behaviours.

Staff at Altona Meadows Primary School have the responsibility to ensure that:

- They promote and support a safe and respectful learning environment
- All forms of cyber bullying are not tolerated
- Staff are aware of cyber bullying and are able to identify and look for signs of occurrence among the students
- Students are aware of the consequences of cyber bullying (Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy)
- A code of conduct is in use for technology, including computers, iPads and mobile phones whilst on the school premises (Acceptable Use Policy)
- All cases of cyber bullying are reported to the Assistant Principal / Principal and responded to promptly
- There is supervision of technology that is effective for monitoring and deterring cyber bullying
- A duty of care to students extends to the school online learning spaces
- Staff explicitly teach cyber safety as part of the school curriculum
- Work in partnership with parents and carers to reduce and manage cyber bullying
- Whole school strategies and initiatives as outlined in the DET's Bullying Prevention and Response policy are put in place

Parents/Carers and Guardians at Altona Meadows Primary School have the responsibility to ensure that:

- Supervise and monitor their child(ren)'s internet activities and electronic devices
- Have conversations with their child(ren) about cyber safety and what behavior is appropriate and inappropriate
- Model appropriate online behaviours themselves

- Report any cyber bullying to the school
- Work in partnership with Altona Meadows Primary School to reduce and manage cyber bullying

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

June 2021