St Levan School

Anti-Bullying Policy/Counter Cyber Bullying

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Positive behaviour policy.

'A person is bullied when he/she is exposed regularly and over time to negative actions on the part of one or more persons. Bullying can be identified by measuring the effects the acts have on a vulnerable child'.

At St Levan School we aim:

- To ensure children feel safe and secure at school.
- To ensure pupils understand what is meant by bullying and what is not.
- To prevent bullying in our school by ensuring all staff understand and consistently apply the guidelines for behaviour management.
- To deal with negative actions by any child quickly and effectively within our behaviour management guidelines.
- To educate children and the learning community on the effects of bullying and types of bullying, including cyber bullying.

In order to meet these aims we believe their needs to be trust and openness between children, adults in the school and parents. Through the use of discussion sessions and circle times, each class teacher will help children to develop the confidence to communicate openly and honestly with adults and their peers. Children will be encouraged to speak out about worries and concerns with no fear of recrimination.

Children will be taught to report to an adult, who will initially investigate and deal with a single incident of aggression, when they are physically or verbally hurt by another child, and are also encouraged not to retaliate against another child. Through adult intervention at the first stage, many cases of unkindness can be dealt effectively. We will encourage children in this reporting by consistently applying the Behaviour Management Policy, so that children know their concerns are responded to appropriately.

Single incidents are dealt with through the Positive behaviour policy and are reported to class teachers. However, should a child's behaviour towards another individual be repeated over time, the incidents will be investigated and parents of all children concerned will be contacted. Any investigation of bullying will be recorded and careful monitoring of the children involved will be initiated to prevent recurrence. All allegations of bullying will be taken seriously and investigated by teachers, who will report to the head teacher.

Parental involvement in supporting all children involved in bullying, whether as victim or culprit, is essential to success. Therefore, parents will be informed and updated on situations and asked to support the school in dealing with the issues of bullying involving their child.

Guidelines

What is bullying?

Bullying involves the abuse of power, it is persistent/ongoing and it is personal to the individual child. Bullying is deliberate and repeated harassment or aggressive acts which cause harm to another. The harm can be either psychological or physical inflicted by one child or a group.

e.g.

- o Teasing or sending nasty notes.
- o Spreading rumours or malicious gossip about someone or their family.
- o Deliberately destroying or hiding another child's work or property.
- o Repeatedly excluding a child by not talking to them, or letting them join in.
- o Posting and/or communicating negative and emotionally harmful material about another person in a wider forum such as social media, online games and forums.

What bullying is not…

Not all aggression is necessarily bullying. Although unpleasant, when two children of approximately the same age and strength have the occasional fight or disagreement or quarrel it is not bullying. This is not encouraged and will always be stopped and dealt with following our Positive behaviour policy, but we recognise it is all part of growing up. Children need to be given the opportunity to learn to sort out minor problems for themselves. In this way they develop social skills, grow in maturity and confidence.

Preventing bullying

Pupils will be taught what is meant by bullying and that bullying is unacceptable behaviour. Children will be encouraged to report incidents of bullying and develop social skills through class discussion, circle times, role play, themes in assembly and frequent reminder of class and school rules. Children will be involved in formulating rules for their class, which encourages them to be responsible for their transgressions against their own rules.

Teachers and playground supervisors will make every effort to supervise children effectively by constantly moving position, watching children, interacting with children as they play. Adults on the playground must not stand talking together, but should be spread out to cover the area. Expectations of behaviour will be made clear to the children.

The play environment will be developed to lessen the likelihood of bullying taking place by providing specific areas and activities at lunchtimes and play times.

The school will reinforce the keeping of class and school rules and the development of positive attitudes through the school system of rewards and sanctions.

Monitoring

The effectiveness of the policy will be through on-going pupil voice opportunities to assess the levels of bullying within the school. Class teachers will share their anti-bullying logs with the head teacher at least annually and this will be reported to the governing body.

COUNTER CYBER BULLYING POLICY

Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

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

What is cyber bullying?

- Cyber bullying includes sending or posting harmful or upsetting text, images or other messages, using the internet, mobile phones or other communication 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 take place across age groups and target pupils, staff and others.
- It can include threats and intimidation, harassment, defamation, exclusion or peer rejection, impersonation and unauthorised publication of private information or images.
- It can include messages intended as jokes, but which have a harmful or upsetting effect.
-

Cyber bullying may be carried out in many ways, including:

- Threatening, intimidating or upsetting text messages;
- Threatening or embarrassing pictures and video clips via mobile phone cameras;
- Silent or abusive phone calls or using the victim's phone to harass others, to make them think the victim is responsible;
- Threatening or bullying emails, possibly sent using a pseudonym or someone else's name;
- Menacing or upsetting responses to someone in a chat-room;
- Unpleasant messages sent during instant messaging;
- Unpleasant or defamatory information posted to blogs, personal websites and social networking sites (e.g. Facebook) In some cases this type of bullying can be a criminal offence.

Prevention of Cyber Bullying

Understanding and information

- The Computing/ICT Leader (head teacher) will act, as an e-Safety Officer, to oversee the practices and procedures outlined in this policy and monitor their effectiveness.
- The e-Safety Officer will ensure that the school maintains details of agencies and resources that may assist in preventing and addressing bullying.

- Staff will be trained to identify signs of cyber bullying and will be helped to keep informed about the technologies that children commonly use.
- A Code of Advice (see Appendix 1) will be developed, periodically reviewed and communicated to help pupils protect themselves from being caught up in cyber-bullying and to advise them on reporting any incidents.
- Pupils will be informed about cyber bullying through curricular and pastoral activities.
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on cyber bullying.

Practices and Procedures

- The responsibilities of the school and of pupils as set out in the Anti-Bullying Policy apply also to this policy.
- Positive use of ICT will be promoted.
- CPD and INSET may be used to help staff develop their own practices and support pupils in safe and responsible use of ICT.
- The school will encourage safe use of ICT, emphasising, for example, the importance of password security and the need to log out of accounts.
- The school will promote the message that asking for help is the right thing to do and all members of the school community will be informed how cyber bullying can be reported.
- Confidential records will be kept of all cyber bullying incidents.

Responding to cyber bullying

Cyber bullying will generally be dealt with through the schools countering-bullying policy. A cyber bullying incident might include features different to other forms of bullying, prompting a particular response. Key differences might be:

- Impact: possibly extensive scale and scope
- Location: the anytime and anywhere nature of cyber bullying
- Anonymity: the person being bullied might not know who the perpetrator is
- Motivation: the perpetrator might not realise that his/her actions are bullying
- Evidence: the subject of the bullying will have evidence of what happened.

Support for the person being bullied

As with any form of bullying, support for the individual will depend on the circumstances. Examples include:

- Emotional support and reassurance that it was right to report the incident
- Advice not to retaliate or reply, but to keep the evidence and show or give it to their parent or a member of staff
- Advice on other aspects of the code to prevent re-occurrence
- Advice on how the perpetrator might be blocked from the individual's sites or services
- Actions, where possible and appropriate, to have offending material removed
- Advice to consider changing email addresses and/or mobile phone numbers
- Discuss contacting the police in cases of suspected illegal content

Investigation

Again, the nature of any investigation will depend on the circumstances. It may include, for example,

- Review of evidence and advice to preserve it, for example by saving or printing
- phone messages, texts, emails, website pages)
- Efforts to identify the perpetrator, which may include looking at the media, systems and sites used. Witnesses may have useful information.
- Contact with the Internet Watch Foundation, the police or the Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Board Officer if images might be illegal or raise child protection issues
- Requesting a pupil to reveal a message or other phone content or confiscating a phone. Staff do not have the authority to search the contents of a phone.

Working with the perpetrator

Work with the perpetrator and any sanctions will be determined on an individual basis, in accordance with the Anti-Bullying Policy, with the intention of:

- Helping the person harmed to feel safe again and be assured that the bullying will stop.

- Holding the perpetrator to account, so they recognise the harm caused and do not repeat the behaviour.
- Helping bullies to recognise the consequences of their actions and facilitating change in their attitude and behaviour.
- Demonstrating that cyber bullying, as any other form of bullying, is unacceptable and that the school has effective ways of dealing with it.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of counter bullying procedures
- Members of staff will report any incidents of cyber bullying to the Head teacher.
- The Head teacher will review any serious incident within three months of the school dealing with any reported cases and will ensure that an annual review of Cyber Bullying and the Anti-Bullying procedures are carried out.
- The review will take into account comments and suggested areas for improvement from staff and students, including input from the School Council.

Date Agreed: January 2024

Due for Review: January 2026
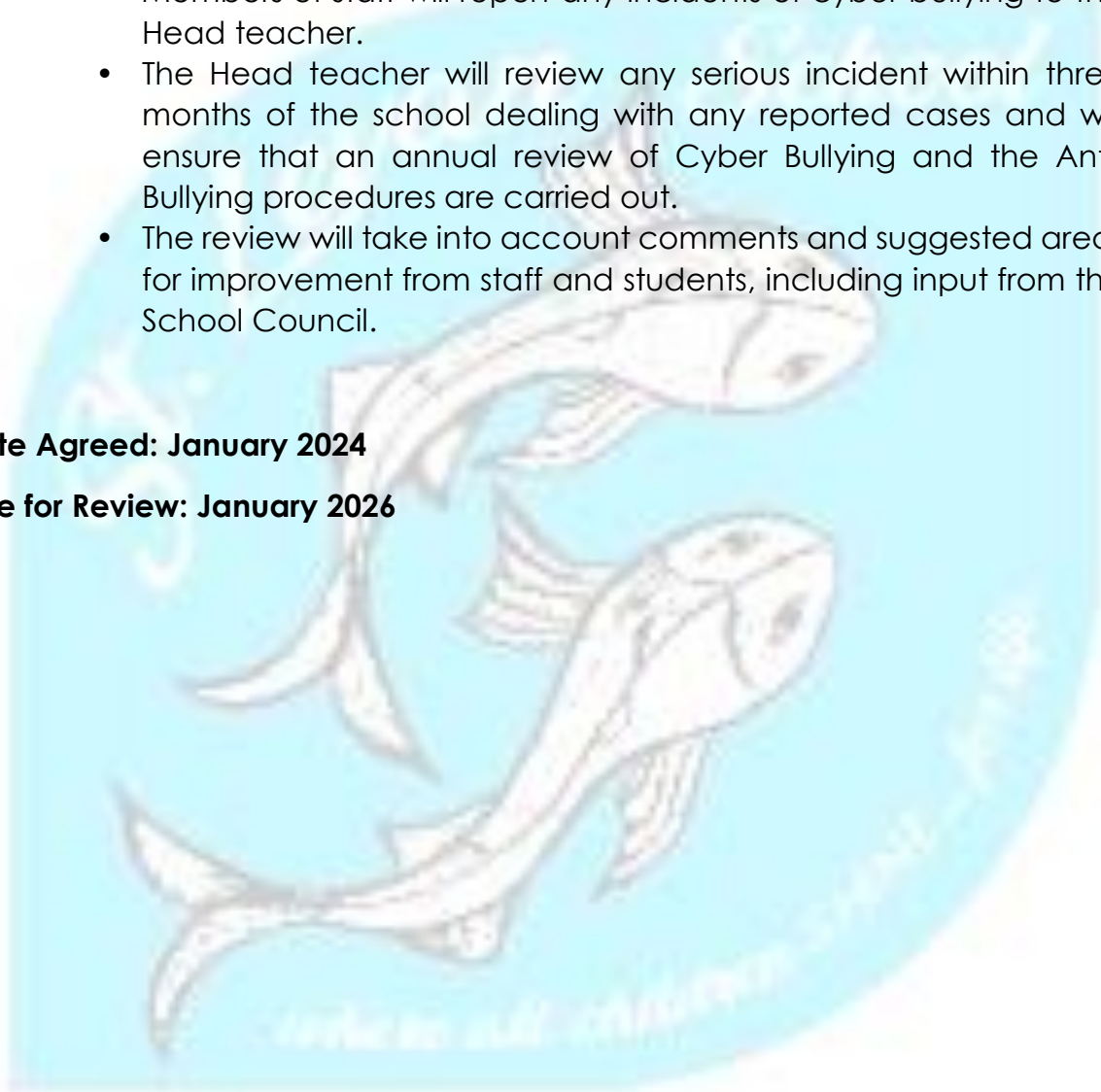
Appendix 1 Cyber Safety Code

Three Steps to Safety

1. Respect other people - online and off. Don't spread rumours about people or share their secrets, including phone numbers or passwords.
2. If someone insults you online or by phone, stay calm. Ignore them, but tell someone you trust.
3. "Do as you would be done by!" Think how you would feel if you were bullied. You are responsible for your behaviour - so don't distress other people or encourage others to do so.

If you are being bullied …

It is never your fault. It can be stopped and it can usually be traced.

- Don't ignore the bullying. Don't reply, but do tell someone you can trust, such as a teacher or parent, or call an advice line.
- Try to keep calm. If you seem frightened or angry it will only make the person bullying you more likely to continue.

Text / video messaging

- You can turn off incoming messages for a couple of days.
- If bullying persists you can change your number (ask your mobile phone provider).
- Do not reply to abusive or worrying messages. You can report them to you mobile phone provider.

Email

- Never reply to unpleasant or unwanted messages.
- Don't accept emails or open files from people you don't know.
- Don't delete bullying emails – print them or save them as evidence in a separate folder.

Social networking sites, chatrooms and instant messaging

- Change privacy settings so you can choose who to be friends with and who can see your profile. Don't add anyone you don't know to your friend list.
- Don't use your real name in chatrooms.
- Never give out your photo or personal details, like your address, phone number or which school you go to.
- Don't post any pictures or videos you wouldn't be happy for your parents or

- teachers to see. Once they are online they can be copied and posted in other places where you can't get rid of them.
- Keep your passwords private and don't tell anyone, not even your best friend.
- To report suspicious behaviour online and to learn more about keeping yourself safe online visit www.thinkyouknow.co.uk

Pupils are encouraged to always report bullying incidents. Not doing that allows the bully to continue. That's not good for the victims, for those who witness the incidents or for the bully, who may need help to change their antisocial behaviour.

Date Agreed: January 2024

Review Date: January 2026