



Cyber-Bullying Policy

Introduction

Barnes Infant Academy supports the use of modern technology and acknowledges the educational benefits it brings. The Academy is aware of the potential for cyber-bullying to occur both in and outside of the Academy.

What is cyber-bullying?

Cyber-bullying is when a group or an individual is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another group or individual using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones.

Prevention and Intervention

Barnes Infant Academy is committed to raising awareness and promoting the positive use of technology to support prevention of cyber-bullying. Where required the Academy will intervene and investigate reported incidents of cyber-bullying.

The Academy supports cyber-bullying prevention by:

- educating all pupils in the proper use of electronic technologies and the Internet and ensure all pupils understand the consequences of cyber-bullying
- involving parents/carers to ensure they are aware of the procedures to follow if they believe that their child is being bullied
- regularly evaluates and updates the Academy policies, practices and procedures to take into account developments in technology
- by making all staff aware of the acceptable use of ICT policies and having them sign a declaration of use
- by providing staff with relevant training
- by working with the wider community such as the police and children's services to raise awareness and promote positive usage
- make it easy for pupils to report bullying so that they are assured that they will be listened to and incidents acted on
- endeavouring to block access to inappropriate web sites by using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems

- by appropriately auditing ICT communications and ensuring that security arrangements in place are regularly reviewed
- by displaying information at key points throughout the school
- by promoting online safety in newsletters
- by working closely with external agencies to provide training for staff, parents and pupils

The Academy adheres to Barnes Infant Academy's Anti-bullying Policy when responding to any incidents of cyber-bullying.

The Law

Education Law:

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) outlines legal powers which relate directly to cyber-bullying.

Safeguarding Children

Under the Children Act 1989 a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Under these circumstances Barnes Infant Academy will report their concerns to Children's Services under the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board Procedures.

Civil and Criminal Law:

There are laws that apply to harassing or threatening behaviour, and menacing and threatening communications. Some cyber-bullying activities could be criminal offences under the following laws:

- The Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003
- The Public Order Act 1986

Associated policies, procedures and guidance

This policy should be read in conjunction with other Academy policies and procedures, listed below:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Safeguarding Children
- Guidance for Safer Working Practices
- ICT Policy
- Whistle-blowing Policy
- Photography Policy

Additional information and guidance on staying safe online can be found at:

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- www.ceop.police.uk
- www.childline.org.uk/safesurfing
- www.kidscape.org
- www.wiredsafety.org