FULWELL INFANT SCHOOL ACADEMY

Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy

1.Policy Statement

Fulwell Infant School Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. We recognise that digital technologies provide valuable opportunities for learning, creativity and communication, but they can also expose children to risks, including cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying can have a significant impact on a child's emotional wellbeing, mental health, self-esteem and educational experience. The school is committed to creating a culture in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity, kindness and respect both online and offline.

All incidents of cyberbullying will be taken seriously and addressed promptly, proportionately and consistently. Where cyberbullying gives rise to safeguarding concerns, the school will respond in accordance with its safeguarding procedures.

This policy should be read alongside the following school policies and procedures:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Acceptable Use Agreements
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Equality and Inclusion Policies

This policy has been developed with regard to:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)

- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Preventing and Tackling Bullying (DfE)
- Behaviour in Schools (DfE)
- Teaching Online Safety in Schools (DfE)
- Education Act 2002
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Equality Act 2010
- UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018

2. Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Promote safe, responsible and respectful use of technology.
- Prevent cyberbullying through education and awareness.
- Encourage pupils, staff and parents to report concerns promptly.
- Protect and support children affected by cyberbullying.
- Ensure incidents are investigated fairly and effectively.
- Meet the school's safeguarding and statutory responsibilities.
- Foster a positive culture of digital citizenship.

3. Definition of Cyberbullying

The Department for Education defines bullying as behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place through the use of digital technology, including:

- Mobile phones and text messaging
- Social media platforms
- Messaging applications
- Email
- Online gaming platforms
- Websites and online forums
- Video sharing sites and live streaming platforms
- Photographs and videos shared electronically

Cyberbullying may include:

- Sending threatening, intimidating or abusive messages
- Posting unkind, offensive or humiliating comments
- Deliberately excluding others from online groups
- Sharing images without permission
- Impersonating another person online
- Spreading rumours or false information
- Encouraging others to bully or target an individual online

Whilst pupils at Fulwell Infant School Academy are below the minimum age for most social media accounts, the school recognises that children may access online communication through family devices, games consoles, tablets and internet-enabled applications.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure this policy is implemented effectively.
- Promote a culture of respect and online safety.
- Ensure appropriate staff training is provided.
- Monitor incidents and trends.
- Liaise with external agencies where required.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL will:

- Assess safeguarding risks associated with incidents.
- Determine whether concerns meet the threshold for child protection intervention.
- Maintain accurate safeguarding records.
- Liaise with parents, Children's Social Care, the Police and other agencies where necessary.
- Ensure appropriate support is provided to affected pupils.

Staff

All staff will:

- Promote positive online behaviour.
- Deliver online safety education as part of the curriculum.
- Remain vigilant to signs of cyberbullying.
- Take concerns seriously and act promptly.
- Follow safeguarding and reporting procedures.
- Record incidents appropriately.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- Monitor their child's online activity.
- Discuss responsible online behaviour regularly.
- Report concerns promptly to the school.
- Work collaboratively with the school to resolve incidents.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Treat others with kindness and respect.
- Use technology safely and responsibly.
- Follow school online safety rules.
- Report concerns to a trusted adult.
- Support others who may be experiencing difficulties online.

5. Prevention and Education

Fulwell Infant School Academy believes education is the most effective means of preventing cyberbullying.

The school will:

Deliver Online Safety Education Through:

- Computing lessons
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education
- Assemblies
- Safeguarding activities

- Safer Internet Day and other national campaigns

Promote Positive Digital Citizenship

The school will:

- Teach children how to communicate respectfully online.
- Develop understanding of privacy and personal information.
- Encourage pupils to seek help when worried.
- Celebrate positive and responsible use of technology.

Engage Parents and Carers

The school will provide:

- Information about emerging online risks.
- Guidance on parental controls and online safety.
- Support and advice where concerns arise.

Provide Staff Training

Staff training will include:

- Current online safety risks.
- Recognising cyberbullying.
- Safeguarding implications.
- Reporting and recording procedures.
- Relevant statutory guidance.

6. Reporting Cyberbullying

Any member of the school community who becomes aware of cyberbullying should report it immediately.

Pupils may report concerns to:

- A class teacher
- The Headteacher
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Any trusted member of staff

Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school as soon as concerns arise.

All reports will be taken seriously and investigated appropriately.

7. Responding to Incidents

The school will respond to allegations of cyberbullying in a timely, proportionate and consistent manner.

Actions may include:

1. Listening to all parties involved.
2. Gathering and preserving evidence where possible.
3. Recording the incident.
4. Assessing safeguarding risks.
5. Speaking with parents or carers.
6. Providing support for those affected.
7. Applying sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy where appropriate.
8. Monitoring the situation to ensure concerns are resolved.

Responses will take account of:

- The age and understanding of the pupils involved.
- The severity and frequency of the behaviour.
- Any vulnerabilities of those involved.
- Whether the behaviour is part of a wider pattern of bullying.
- The impact on the child.

8. Safeguarding and Child Protection

Cyberbullying may constitute a safeguarding concern and, in some circumstances, may be considered child-on-child abuse.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess all incidents to determine whether:

- A child is at risk of significant harm.

- The behaviour constitutes child-on-child abuse.
- The behaviour is motivated by prejudice or discrimination.
- There are concerns relating to a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.
- There has been sexual harassment or online sexual abuse.
- Nude or semi-nude images have been created, sent or shared.
- The behaviour may constitute a criminal offence.

Where appropriate, referrals will be made to:

- Children's Social Care
- The Police
- The Local Authority
- Other relevant support services

Any safeguarding concerns will be managed in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

9. Supporting Pupils

The school recognises that children affected by cyberbullying may require emotional and practical support.

Support may include:

- Reassurance and pastoral support.
- Opportunities to discuss concerns with trusted adults.
- Regular monitoring and check-ins.
- Support from the safeguarding team.
- Individual intervention programmes where appropriate.
- Referral to external services where necessary.

Support may also be provided for children who have engaged in cyberbullying to address underlying causes and promote positive behaviour.

10. Searching, Screening and Evidence

Where concerns arise, staff may request copies of messages, screenshots or other evidence.

Any search, screening or confiscation of devices will be undertaken in accordance with:

- DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation Guidance
- The school's Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding procedures

The school will comply with UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 requirements when handling personal information and digital evidence.

11. Monitoring and Review

Records of cyberbullying incidents will be maintained in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures and data protection requirements.

The Headteacher and Local Governing Committee will review this policy annually, or sooner if required by changes in legislation, statutory guidance or local safeguarding arrangements.

The effectiveness of the policy will be monitored through:

- Safeguarding records
- Behaviour records
- Pupil voice activities
- Parent feedback
- Staff feedback
- Reports to Governors

Fulwell Infant School Academy is committed to ensuring that all children can learn, play and communicate safely, **respectfully and confidently, both online and offline.**

Appendix 1: Advice for Pupils

If something online worries or upsets you:

STOP

Do not reply to unkind messages.

BLOCK

Block the person where possible.

SAVE

Keep evidence by saving messages or asking an adult to take screenshots.

TELL

Tell a trusted adult immediately.

Remember: if something online makes you feel worried, frightened or upset, it is never your fault and help is always available.