YARRA ROAD PS
Cyber Bullying
POLICY

Statement of Purpose

The school is committed to providing a safe and caring environment which fosters respect for others and does not tolerate cyber-bullying.

Definition of cyber-bullying:

A form of bullying that is carried out through and internet service such as email, chat room discussion group, online social networking, instant messaging or web pages. It can also include bullying through mobile phone technologies such as SMS. It may involve text or images (photos, drawings).

Examples of cyber-bullying behaviours are:
- Teasing and being made fun of
- Spreading of rumours online
- Sending unwanted messages
- Defamation

Cyber-bullying can happen to anyone and the bully can act anonymously if they want. People can also be bullied online by groups of people such as class groups or collective members of an online community.

Guidelines

- Openly talk about cyber-bullying – what it is, how it affects us and what we can do about it.
- Teach our children the skills which will build their self-esteem and empower them to take the responsibility for themselves and give them the opportunity to practise these skills.

Responsibilities of Staff:

- To model appropriate behaviours at all tines
- To deal with all reported and observed incidences if cyber-bullying
- To ensure that children are supervised at all times
- To have the appropriate professional development in this area

Responsibilities of the children:

- To tell a trusted adult if they are being cyber-bullied or if they see/know of someone else being cyber-bullied
- To help someone who is being cyber-bullied by telling a trusted adult (teacher/parent etc)
- To not cyber bully others.

Responsibilities of the parents:

- To watch for signs that their child may be being cyber-bullied.
- To speak to a staff member at school if their child is being cyber-bullied, or they suspect that this is happening.
- To instruct their children to 'tell' if they are cyber-bullied.

Implementation:

- Incidences of cyber-bullying to be reported by children, parents, staff.
- Incidences of cyber-bullying to be recorded in teachers notes and Student Incident Register Program.
- When cyber-bullying incident is reported or observed, the guidelines set out in the Welfare and Discipline Policy are to be followed.

Intervention may take the form of:

- peer counselling and support
- encouraging family support of victims
- encouraging family reinforcement of school approach to cyber bullies.
- development of resilient behaviours through implementation of
- protective Behaviours Program
- Tribes strategies
- Co-operative Learning
- reminding students and teachers of our Policy.
- Staff Professional Development to be ongoing.

For Further information, please refer to the DET policies including Using Social Media, Bullying and Duty of Care

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed by the School Council as a part of the 3 year cycle or at the discretion of the School Council.

This Policy was last ratified by School Council in 2017