Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College

Anti-Cyber-Bullying Policy

February, 2014

"Love one another, as I have loved you"

(John 15:12)

1.0 Introduction

1.0.1 Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology (CWS) aims to ensure that all members of the school community feel welcome, safe and happy and so are able to learn and make progress. Bullying of any kind prevents this happening and makes people feel unsafe.

1.0.2 As a school, we take bullying extremely seriously. Pupils, parents and carers should understand that reporting bullying is essential and be assured that the school will support them fully whenever bullying is reported. It is the responsibility of all members of the school community to implement the Anti-Bullying and Anti-Cyber-Bullying Policy. *(See Anti-Bullying Policy)*

2.0 Aims

2.0.1 To build an anti-bullying ethos in the school

2.0.2 To ensure all staff, pupils, parents and carers have a clear understanding of what bullying behaviour is

2.0.3 To ensure all governors and staff know and understand the school policies on bullying and follow them when bullying is suspected or reported

2.0.4 To ensure that all pupils, parents and carers know the school policies on bullying and feel confident to activate the anti-bullying systems

2.0.5 To challenge attitudes about bullying behaviour

2.0.6 To increase understanding for pupils who are bullied

2.1 *Our pupils state that*

2.1.1 We will treat others as we would like to be treated and this will be our Golden Rule

2.1.2 We will respect everyone in our school; nobody is to be left out or be left alone

2.1.3 We will never retaliate; we will tell someone we trust and we will support each other

3.0 Definition of Cyber Bullying

3.0.1 Cyber Bullying is a 'sub-set' or 'method' of bullying. It is the use of ICT, particularly mobile phones and the internet, to deliberately harass , intimidate or cause distress and harm to others. It invades the privacy of another person and may include the use of images and/or language and ideas which are threatening, abusive or racist. Cyber-bullying can differ in several significant ways from other kinds of bullying in so far as it has the capacity to invade a person's home and

personal space while maintaining at times a degree of anonymity on the part of the bully. Cyber bullying is an increasingly more widespread problem in present society and often becomes a matter for police investigation.

3.0.2 In the words of our pupils, who are all consulted in the annual review of this policy, cyber-bullying is deliberately and repeatedly harassing, exploiting, intimidating or threatening someone through the use of ICT; making someone feel insecure, unwanted, unworthy or inferior and violating someone's privacy.

4.0 Principles and Practices

4.1 Our Pupils are entitled to

4.1.1 Feel safe and not to be made unhappy by others
4.1.2 Not be frightened by others
4.1.3 Not be teased about their race, religion, disability, social class, sexuality or gender, personal differences, performance at school or any other matter
4.1.4 Not be made unhappy by malicious and unkind notes, letters, text messages, e-mails, phone calls or any form of gossip or slander by any other means.

4.2 Our Pupils state that:

4.2.1 We won't have bullies in our school
4.2.2 We are responsible for our own actions
4.2.3 We will keep our school safe
4.2.4 We are not a bullying school and bullies do not belong in our school
4.2.5 We are a good school and we want to be even better
4.2.6 We all have a right to learn here and be safe
4.2.7 We all matter and are equal in the eyes of God
4.2.8 We are a Catholic School and 'The Family of God'

"If our motto is 'Forward in Faith', then bullying must be left behind!"

5.0 Preventing Cyber-Bullying

5.1 School Responsibility

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College aims to take a proactive approach to the prevention of cyber bullying:

5.1.1 It is regularly considered in assemblies, ICT and PSHE lessons.

5.1.2 The school uses high quality IT security systems to filter and block certain communications as well as auditing the use of ICT by each student and staff member within the school.

5.1.3 The school endeavours to support parents to be fully aware of the potential of the internet to bring harm and distress to others and to closely monitor their child's use of this technology.

5.1.4 The school's anti-cyber bullying and ICT acceptable usage policies are reviewed each year by the school's governors, staff and student council.

5.1.5 Any incident or alleged incident of cyber bullying occurring within the school will be taken extremely seriously. An investigation will follow which will require the deployment of senior pastoral staff in interviewing pupils and gathering written pupil accounts as necessary. The school will use its enhanced IT secure systems to locate the source of the cyber bullying and assist in the containment of any malicious or inflammatory published material. Senior pastoral staff will inform parents accordingly and will follow appropriate disciplinary (and further educative) procedures within school to aim to prevent a cyber-bully from ever repeating such behaviour. The school will liaise where it can with any social networking, video or messenger sites to assist with the removal of offensive material and will continue to demonstrate to the whole school community that it has absolutely no tolerance for cyber bullying whatsoever.

5.2 Personal and Parental Responsibility

5.2.1 The school is unable to accept responsibility for the way its students may choose to use mobile phones and the internet beyond normal school hours. It is clearly the responsibility of each person to make appropriate choices in his or her own life and it also remains the responsibility of the parents of our students to monitor and regulate the extent to which their son or daughter is free to use this technology away from school and within their own home.

5.3 Police Involvement

5.3.1 Should their son or daughter become the victim of cyber bullying and where a possible criminal offence has been committed, it is the recommendation of the school that parents contact the police. A criminal offence may have been committed if the cyber-bullying has involved one or more of the following: harassment, threats of harm or violence to a person or property, evidence of sexual exploitation, homophobia, racism, or intimidation.

6.0 Anti-Cyber Bullying Code

6.1 Being sent an abusive or threatening text message or seeing malicious comments about one's self on a website can be extremely upsetting. This code offers important suggestions to our pupils to help them protect themselves from becoming ensnared in any incident of cyber-bullying and to know what to do should it ever happen to them.

6.1.1 Respect each person through your words and actions
6.1.2 Ask permission before taking a photograph of another person
6.1.3 Do not send on unkind images and messages.
6.1.4 Don't give away your passwords – change them regularly
6.1.5 Block the bully
6.1.6 Don't retaliate or reply
6.1.7 Save the evidence
6.1.8 If you are being bullied, tell an adult you trust

Remember – whatever is sent or posted can be traced back to its source

7.0 Evaluation

7.1 *Success Criteria*

7.1.1 This policy will be judged successful if the pupils whose needs it addresses make sufficiently positive progress with their behaviour and attitude to learning.

7.2 *Monitoring and Review*

7.2.1 The Behaviour Policy is subject to staged review throughout the course of the school year. For this purpose, a Policy Review Team is established, representative of the Governing Body (Teaching and Learning and Pastoral), the Senior Leadership of the school (CS/DK), pupils, parents, staff and external agencies.

This policy has been developed in line with advice from the LA and DfE guidance contained in the document 'Don't suffer in Silence'.