



## CYBER-BULLYING POLICY

January 2016 – January 2018

Knayton C of E Primary school embraces the advantages of modern technology in terms of the educational benefits it brings, however the school is mindful of the potential for bullying to occur. Central to the School's anti-bullying policy is the belief that "pupils will learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of discrimination or being bullied". The School also recognises that it must take note of bullying perpetrated outside School which spills over into the School.

### DEFINITION OF CYBER-BULLYING

Cyber-bullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/herself.

This could include:

- Bullying by texts or messages or calls on mobile phones
- The use of mobile phone cameras to cause distress, fear or humiliation
- Posting threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating material on websites, to include blogs, personal websites, social networking sites
- Using e-mail to message others
- Hijacking/cloning e-mail accounts
- Making threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating remarks in chat rooms or online gaming
- The use of mobile/tablet apps – for example, Snapchat, whatsapp, Instagram etc. to cause distress, fear or humiliation.

### LEGAL ISSUES

Cyber-bullying is generally criminal in character. There are laws that apply to cyberspace:

- It is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information in any media including internet sites.
- Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 makes it an offence to send, by public means of a public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or one of an indecent, obscene or menacing character.
- The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it an offence to knowingly pursue any course of conduct amounting to harassment.
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Stockton Road, Knayton, Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO7 4AN

# KNAYTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## POLICY

Knayton C of E Primary educates its pupils both in the proper use of telecommunications and about the serious consequences of cyber-bullying and will, through PSHE and in ICT lessons and assemblies, continue to inform and educate its pupils in these fast changing areas.

Knayton C of E Primary trains its staff to respond effectively to reports of cyber-bullying or harassment and has systems in place to respond to it. Knayton C of E Primary endeavours to block access to inappropriate web sites - such as Swiggle, using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems and no pupil is allowed to work on the internet within the school without a member of staff present. Knayton C of E Primary regularly reviews the security arrangements in place.

Knayton C of E will regularly support and give advice to parents and carers in supporting their children use technology safely. We will do this through PIE evenings and sharing advice we receive from outside agencies.

Whilst education and guidance remain at the heart of what we do, Lansdown Park reserves the right to take action against those who take part in cyber-bullying.

- All bullying is damaging but cyber-bullying and harassment can be invasive of privacy at all times. These acts may also be criminal acts.
- Knayton C of E Primary supports victims and, when necessary, will work with the Police to detect those involved in criminal acts.
- Knayton C of E Primary will use, as appropriate, the full range of sanctions to correct, punish or remove pupils who bully fellow pupils or harass staff in this way, both in or out of school.
- Knayton C of E Primary will use its power of confiscation where necessary to prevent pupils from committing crimes or misusing equipment.
- All members of the School community are aware they have a duty to bring to the attention of the Head any example of cyber-bullying or harassment that they know about or suspect.

## GUIDANCE FOR PUPILS

At Knayton C of E Primary we teach our pupils that if they believe they or someone they know is the victim of cyber-bullying, they must speak to an adult as soon as possible. This person could be a parent/guardian, or a member of staff at Knayton C of E Primary.

- Do not answer abusive messages but save them and report them
- Do not delete anything until it has been shown to your parents/guardian or a member of staff at Lansdown Park (even if it is upsetting, the material is important evidence which may need to be used later as proof of cyber-bullying)
- Do not give out personal IT details



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- Never reply to abusive e-mails
- Never reply to someone you do not know
- Stay in public areas in chat rooms

## **GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS**

It is vital that parents and the school work together to ensure that all pupils are aware of the serious consequences of getting involved in anything that might be seen to be cyber-bullying. Staff will inform parents of the cyber-bullying policy and the procedures in place to deal with cyber-bullying.

- Parents can help by making sure their child understands the school's policy and, above all, how seriously Knayton C of E Primary takes incidents of cyber-bullying
- Parents should also explain to their children legal issues relating to cyber-bullying
- If parents believe their child is the victim of cyber-bullying, they should save the offending material (if need be by saving an offensive text on their or their child's mobile phone) and make sure they have all relevant information before deleting anything
- Parents should contact the school as soon as possible. A meeting can then be arranged with the Headteacher
- If the incident falls in the holidays Knayton C of E Primary reserves the right to take action against bullying perpetrated outside the school which spills over into the school.



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