

# Carriglea N.S. – Anti Bullying Policy

Carriglea N.S. aims to ensure that all children are safe and feel safe from bullying, harassment and discrimination. This school is committed to teaching children the information and skills necessary to be able to use ICT effectively, safely and responsibly.

## Understanding Cyber Bullying

- **Cyber bullying is the use of ICT (usually a mobile phone and or the internet) to abuse another person.**
- **It can take place anywhere and involve many people.**
- **Anybody can be targeted including pupils and school staff.**
- **It can include threats, intimidation, harassment, cyber-stalking, vilification, defamation, exclusion, peer rejection, impersonation, unauthorised publication of private information or images etc.**
- **While bullying involves a repetition of unwelcome behaviour the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools, September 2013, states**

*2.1.3. In addition, in the context of these procedures placing a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and /or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.*

## What is Cyber Bullying?

There are many types of cyber bullying. The more common types are –

- **Text messages** – can be threatening or cause discomfort. Also included here is ‘Blue Jacking’ (the sending of anonymous text messages over short distances using Bluetooth wireless technology)
- **Picture/video clips via mobile phone cameras** – images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed.
- **Mobile phone calls** – silent calls, abusive messages or stealing the victim’s phone and using it to harass others to make them believe the victim is responsible
- **Emails** – threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else’s name
- **Chat room bullying** – menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web base chat room
- **Instant messaging tools**– unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real time conversations online using MSM
- **Bullying via websites** – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal ‘own web space’ sites such as You Tube, Facebook, Ask.fm, Bebo and Myspace – although there are others.

## Explanation of slang terms used when referring to cyber bullying activity:

1. **‘Flaming’** – online fights using electronic messages with angry and vulgar language.
2. **‘Harassment’** – repeatedly sending offensive, rude, and insulting messages.
3. **‘Cyber stalking’** repeatedly sending messages that include threats of harm or are highly intimidation or engaging in other on line activities that make a person afraid for his or her own safety.

4. **'Denigration'** – 'Dissing' someone online. Sending or posting cruel gossip or rumours about a person to damage his or her reputation or friendships.
5. **'Impersonation'** – pretending to be someone else and sending or posting material online that makes someone look bad, gets her/him in trouble or danger, or damages her/his reputations or friendships.
6. **'Outing and Trickery'** – tricking someone into revealing secret or embarrassing information which is then shared online.
7. **'Exclusion'** – Intentionally excluding someone from an online group, like a 'buddy list'

(This list is not exhaustive and the terms used continue to change.)

### **Aims of the Policy**

- To ensure that pupils, staff and parents understand what cyber bullying is and how it can be combated.
- To ensure that practices and procedures are agreed to prevent incidents of cyber bullying
- To ensure that reported incidents of cyber bullying are dealt with effectively and quickly.

### **Procedures to Prevent Cyber Bullying**

- Staff and Board of Management (BOM) will be familiar with the new 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary School 2017'
- Staff, pupils, parents and (BOM) will be made aware of issues surrounding cyber bullying.
- Pupils will learn about cyber bullying through Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Friendship Week activities and other curriculum projects.
- The school will engage a speaker to facilitate a workshop on internet safety (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Classes) every year. Classes 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> will participate in the 'Bullying in a Cyber World' programme.
- Speakers will be invited to give a talk to parents on the dangers of the internet for children.
- All classes will participate in 'Internet Safety Day'.
- The use or possession of mobile phones by children is not allowed in Carriglea N.S. (if parents wish their children to have access to their phone after school, they must contact the school and the phone will be stored by the class teacher until the child is leaving the school)
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on how to combat cyber bullying via the school website on 'Get With It'
- Pupils and parents will be urged to report all incidents of cyber bullying to the school.
- All reports of cyber bullying will be noted, recorded and stored in the office.
- Procedures in our school Anti-bullying Policy shall apply.
- The Garda will be contacted in cases of actual or suspected illegal content
- This policy will be reviewed regularly.

### **Information For Pupils**

If you are being bullied by phone or on the Internet

- Remember, bullying is never your fault. It can be stopped and it can usually be traced.
- Don't ignore the bullying. Tell someone you trust, such as a teacher or parent or call an advice line.
- Try to keep calm. If you are frightened, try to show it as little as possible. Don't get angry, it will only make the person bullying you more likely to continue.

- Don't give your personal details online – if you are in a chat room, do not say where you live, the school you go to , your email address etc. All these things can help someone who wants to harm you to build up a picture about you.
- Keep and save any bullying emails, text messages or images. Then you can show them to a parent or teacher as evidence.
- You should make a note of the time and date bullying messages or images were sent and note any details about the sender
- There is plenty of online advice on how to react to cyber bullying. For example ie.reachout.com and www.wiredsafety.org have some useful tips.
- Remember it is illegal for children under the age of 13 to have most social media accounts

### **Text / Video Messaging**

- You can easily stop receiving text messages for a while by turning off incoming messages for a couple of days. This might stop the person texting you by making them believe you've changed your phone number. Ask your mobile service provided about this.
- Don't reply to abusive or worrying text or video messages.
- Your mobile service provider will have a number for you to ring or text to report phone bullying. Visit their website for details.
- Don't delete messages from cyber bullies. You don't have to read them but you should keep them as evidence.

### **Useful Websites**

- [www.spunout.ie](http://www.spunout.ie)
- [www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)
- [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bullying](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bullying)
- [www.childline.ie](http://www.childline.ie)
- [www.chatdanger.com](http://www.chatdanger.com)
- [www.kidpower.org](http://www.kidpower.org)
- [www.childnet.int.org](http://www.childnet.int.org)
- [www.antibullying.net](http://www.antibullying.net)
- [www.reachout.com](http://www.reachout.com)
- [www.abc.tcd.ie](http://www.abc.tcd.ie)
- [www.sticksandstones.ie](http://www.sticksandstones.ie)

**Chairperson:**

**Date:**