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## Northbourne CE (A) Primary School

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## Anti-Bullying Policy: Appendix 1 – Cyber-Bullying

This section of our Anti-Bullying Policy aims to outline the approach taken at Northbourne CE Primary School to the specific issue of cyber-bullying.

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur both inside and outside of school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying and can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially bigger audience and more people involved, as people forward on content – or comment on this – at a click.

### 1. Proactively dealing with cyberbullying

At Northbourne, we have implemented a number of measures which aim to raise the issue of cyberbullying and deal with this proactively, with both children and parents.

- The first Computing unit taught to every year group in the school in September relates to ensuring children know how to keep themselves safe online
- Staying safe online is an ongoing theme in our PSHE curriculum, which embeds issues around using the internet safely within wider teaching
- Periodically, typically every two years, parents are invited to an externally-led workshop to pass on information about cyberbullying
- Relevant resources (such as the Vodafone Digital Parenting magazine) are ordered and sent to parents when these are available to provide information on cyber-safety and safe internet use more generally
- Resources are also included on our school website for parents to refer to.

We acknowledge that internet safety and cyberbullying are fast evolving areas and that staff need to be vigilant and prepared to respond appropriately to ever-changing opportunities for children to bully or be unpleasant towards their peers.

### 2. Dealing with incidents of cyberbullying

The Department for Education (DfE) outlines the specific statutory power, held by headteachers, to discipline pupils for poor behaviour outside the school premises. Section 89(5) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives headteachers the power to regulate pupils' conduct when they are not on the school premises and are not under the lawful control or charge of a member of school staff. This provision can be of particular value when dealing with cyber-bullying.

If members of the school community are involved in cyber-bullying against pupils through, for example:

- Sending abusive or malicious email or text messages
- Posting malicious or abusive comments on a social media site
- Filming or passing on inappropriate material via mobile phones

School staff have the power “to such an extent as it is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site”, which could mean using any of the sanctions as outlined in the main anti-bullying policy or involving external agencies such as the police as appropriate. Specifically, in the case of cyber-bullying, the child’s class teacher, a senior leader or the headteacher would meet with all children implicated separately to find out as much information about the issue as possible, at which point it would then be possible to decide how best to proceed. As with other forms of bullying, parents of all children involved would be contacted at the earliest possible stage to inform them of the issue.

### **3. Dealing with bullying outside school**

Some issues of bullying outside of school (for example, when under the direct responsibility of parents) pose many problems for headteachers and schools. In these occasions, school will try to act in accordance with this policy to resolve or address issues when actions are continued and sustained, or when there is a direct impact on relationships and learning in school.