Bredenbury Primary School
ANTI-CYBER BULLYING POLICY
July 2019

Signed and dated:
Chair of Governors
Headteacher

1. RATIONALE

At Bredenbury Primary School we believe that pupils have the right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. We promote good behaviour at our school. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We fully recognise the existence of cyber-bullying. The school **will** contact the police depending on the severity and repetitious nature of an offence.

With more and more of us using email and mobile phones, bullying does not have to happen in person. Silent phone calls or abusive texts or emails can be just as distressing as being bullied face-to-face. Through adhering to this policy we aim to ensure that children are safe and feel safe from bullying, harassment and discrimination under the 'Stay Safe, Every Child Matters' Agenda. Bredenbury Primary School is committed to teaching children the knowledge and skills to be able to use ICT effectively, safely and responsibly.

All agencies working with children have a legal duty to safeguard and promote welfare. This includes dealing with issues such as cyber-bullying.

Please also refer to the school's Computing Policy, E-safety Policy and Behaviour Policy

Consultation with Staff in:	June 2019
Reviewed by Co-ordinator in:	June 2019
Reviewed by Governors in :	June 2019
Ratified by Governors on:	3.7.2019
To be reviewed by Governors in:	July 2021 (or sooner if guidelines change)

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2. AIMS OF 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.

3. SAFEGUARDING

Bredenbury Primary School has a duty of care and responsibility towards pupils, parents/carers and staff. The care and safety of the individual is the key issue behind this document.

4. WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?
Cyberbullying differs from other forms of bullying in that:
- it can take place 24/7
- electronically forwarded content is hard to control and can reach a large audience
- bullying of this type does not rely on traditional power imbalances
- there is a digital footprint so there is evidence that the bullying occurred
- victims may not necessarily be children and young people; teachers and support staff may also be targeted

E-safety is taught annually to all year groups as part of our computing programme.

There are seven categories of cyber-bullying

1. **Text message bullying –** involves sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort.
2. **Picture/video-clip bullying via mobile phone cameras –** used to make the person being bullied feel threatened or embarrassed, with images usually sent to other people. This can involve filming and sharing physical attacks or having inappropriate/intimate personal photographs

taken and then for these images to be passed on without knowledge or permission.

3. **Phone call bullying via mobile phone –** uses silent calls or abusive messages. Sometimes the bullied person's phone is stolen and used to harass others, who then think the phone owner is responsible. As with all mobile phone bullying, the perpetrators often disguise their numbers, sometimes using someone else's phone to avoid being identified.

4. **Email bullying –** uses email to send bullying or threatening messages, often using a pseudonym for anonymity or using someone else's name to pin the blame on them.

5. **Chat Room bullying –** involves sending menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room.

6. **Bullying through instant messaging (IM) –** is an Internet-based form of bullying where children and young people are sent unpleasant messages as they conduct real-time conversations online (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, instant messages).

7. **Bullying via websites –** includes the use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal polling sites. There has also been a significant increase in social networking sites for young people, which can provide new opportunities for cyberbullying.

5. 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, unauthorized publication of private information or images etc.

6. ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

The following is the approach the school will adopt in situations where there is suspected bullying. The emphasis is always on a caring, listening approach as bullies can be victims too. If bullying is suspected we will:

a. Talk to the suspected victim and any witnesses as quickly as possible. A clear record of the incident will be made and kept.

b. If bullying is suspected, the matter will be referred to the Headteacher who will use the restorative approach (see below) to determine what has happened, who has been affected and what needs to be done to move forward.

c. If it has been clearly established that a child has bullied others, sanctions will be applied in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

d. Continue monitoring the situation to ensure no repetition.

7. PROCEDURES TO PREVENT CYBER BULLYING:

The Headteacher and staff will react promptly and firmly where cyber-bullying of any kind is identified.

- Staff, pupils, parents and governors to be made aware of issues surrounding cyber bullying.
- Pupils and parents will be urged to report all incidents of cyber bullying to the school.
- Staff CPD will assist in learning about current technologies
- Pupils will be involved in developing and communicating this policy.
- Pupils will learn about cyber bullying through PSHE, assemblies, anti-bullying week activities and other curriculum projects.
- **Pupils will sign an Acceptable Use of ICT contract.**
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on how to combat cyber bullying
- **Parents will be expected to sign an Acceptable Use of ICT contract and to discuss its meaning with their children.** Pupils, parents and staff will be involved in reviewing and revising this policy and school procedure.
- All reports of cyber bullying will be investigated, recorded, stored in the Headteacher's office and monitored regularly.
- The Local Authority can provide support and assistance in dealing with incidents of cyber bullying and can be contacted by staff and parents.
- The Headteacher will contact the police if actual or suspected illegal content is discovered.

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8. WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A PARENT?

Don't wait for something to happen before you act.

- Make sure your child understands how to use these technologies safely and knows about the risks and consequences of misusing them.
- Make sure they know what to do if they or someone they know are being cyber bullied.
- Encourage your child to talk to you if they have any problems with cyber bullying. If they do have a problem, contact the school, and the mobile network of the Internet Service Provider (ISP) to do something about it.
- Parental control software can limit who your child sends emails to and who he or she receives them from. It can also block access to some chat rooms.
- Moderated chat rooms are supervised by trained adults. Your ISP will tell you whether they provide moderated chat services.
- Make it your business to know what your child is doing online and who our child's online friends are.

It is important that parents and carers ensure that their children are engaged in safe and responsible online behaviour. Some suggestions for parents to stay involved are:

1. Keep the computer in a public place in the house. Periodically check on what your child is doing.
2. Discuss the kinds of Internet activities your child enjoys.
3. Be up front with your child that you will periodically investigate the files on the computer, the browser history files and your child's public online activities.
4. Search for your child's name online, look at his or her profiles and postings on teen community sites, review web pages or blogs.
5. Tell your child that you may review his or her private communication activities if you have reason to believe you will find unsafe or irresponsible behaviour.
6. Watch out for secretive behaviour as you approach the computer, such as rapidly switching screens, and for attempts to hide online behaviour, such as an empty history file.

9. WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A STUDENT?

1. If you are being bullied, remember bullying is never your fault.
2. It can be stopped and it can usually be traced.
3. Don't ignore the bullying.
4. Tell someone you trust, such as a teacher or parent, or call an advice line – such as 'Childline'
5. Try to keep calm.
6. If you are frightened, try to show it as little as possible.
7. Don't get angry, it will only make the person bullying you more likely to continue.

9.1 Text/video messaging
1. You can turn off incoming messages for a couple of days.
1. If bullying persists you can change your phone number (ask your Mobile Service Provider)
2. Do not 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.

9.2 E-mail
1. Never reply to unpleasant or unwanted e-mails
2. Don't accept e-mails and don't open files from people you do not know
3. Ask an adult to contact the sender's ISP by writing abuse@and then the host e.g. abuse@hotmail.com.

9.3 Web
If the bullying is on a website, tell a teacher or parent, just as you would if the bullying was face-to-face.

9.4 Chat Room and Instant Messaging
1. Never give out your name, date of birth, address, phone number, school name or password online. It's a good idea to use a nickname. Do not give out photos of yourself either.

2. Do not accept emails and do not open files from people you do not know.
3. Remember it might not just be people your own age in a chat room.
4. Stick to public areas in chat rooms and get out if you feel uncomfortable.
5. Tell your parents or carers if your feel uncomfortable or worried about anything that happens in a chat room.
6. Think carefully about what you write – don't leave yourself open to bullying.

ALWAYS TELL AN ADULT

Three Steps to Safety

1. **Respect other people – online and off. Do not spread rumours about people or share their secrets, including phone numbers and passwords.**

2. **If someone insults you online or by phone, stay calm – and ignore them, but tell someone you trust.**

3. **"Do as you would be done by"! Think how you would feel if you were bullied. You are responsible for your own behaviour – make sure you don't distress other people or cause them to be bullied by someone else.**

The policy will be disseminated in the following ways:

- School Web Site
- On display in the School Foyer
- At staff meetings

10.   CONCLUSION

The policy has been formulated following consultation with pupils, parents and staff, and its development must continue to be by consultation. The policy and future amendments to the policy must be communicated clearly and consistently to pupils, parents and staff.