Woodvale Primary School
Prevention
of Cyber Bullying Policy
2019

What Is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets. Cyberbullying can occur through SMS, Text, and apps, or online in social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share content.

Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else. It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation.

The most common places where cyberbullying occurs are:

- Social Media, such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter
- SMS (Short Message Service) also known as Text Message sent through devices
- Instant Message (via devices, email provider services, apps, and social media messaging features)
- Email

Mobile Phones. Access to mobile phones is restricted at school and students who bring them to school are expected to leave them with their class teacher until home time.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). Some classes will be using a BYOD program this year. An appropriate Usage Agreement will be signed prior to students accessing the program.

Social Networking Sites. Most social networking sites have age requirements for people wishing to join them or set up accounts. **Woodvale Primary School endorses those requirements.** Students do not have access to social networking sites such as Facebook at our school. Woodvale Primary School realises that students at home, or when elsewhere, may have gained access to social networking sites and use telephones for messaging, etc. We have **NO CONTROL** as to what happens **OUT OF SCHOOL**. If inappropriate use of computers or mobile phones by students takes place within the school, disciplinary action may follow.

School Strategies:

- Where appropriate, class teachers will inform students about "cyber bullying", what it is and what to do about it.
- Resources to be used will include programs produced for primary schools
  e.g. https://www.esafety.gov.au/ https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/
- Professional learning for staff relating to all forms of cyber bullying.
  Students will only be granted access to Department online services after an **Acceptable Usage Agreement** is signed by the student and parent.
- Staff will issue and maintain student passwords in a confidential and secure manner
- Staff to provide appropriate supervision for students using online services at school
- If instances of cyber bullying are reported, teachers will work with Administration and parents to take appropriate action.
- Keep parents informed about cyber bullying through various means including articles in the newsletter.
- A **Logon Reminder Notice** will appear on the screen when the students logon.
- The school's Positive Behaviour Policy will be used as the process used to investigate incidents and to apply consequences.
- Parent and student cyber safety workshops will be held every second year.