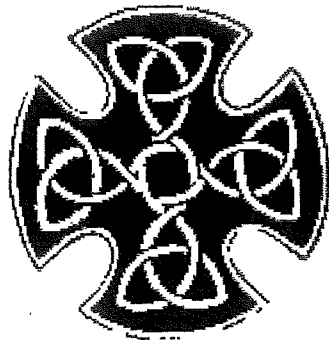


# Cyberbullying

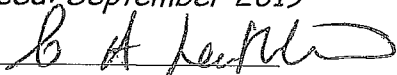


St Werburgh's C of E  
Primary School

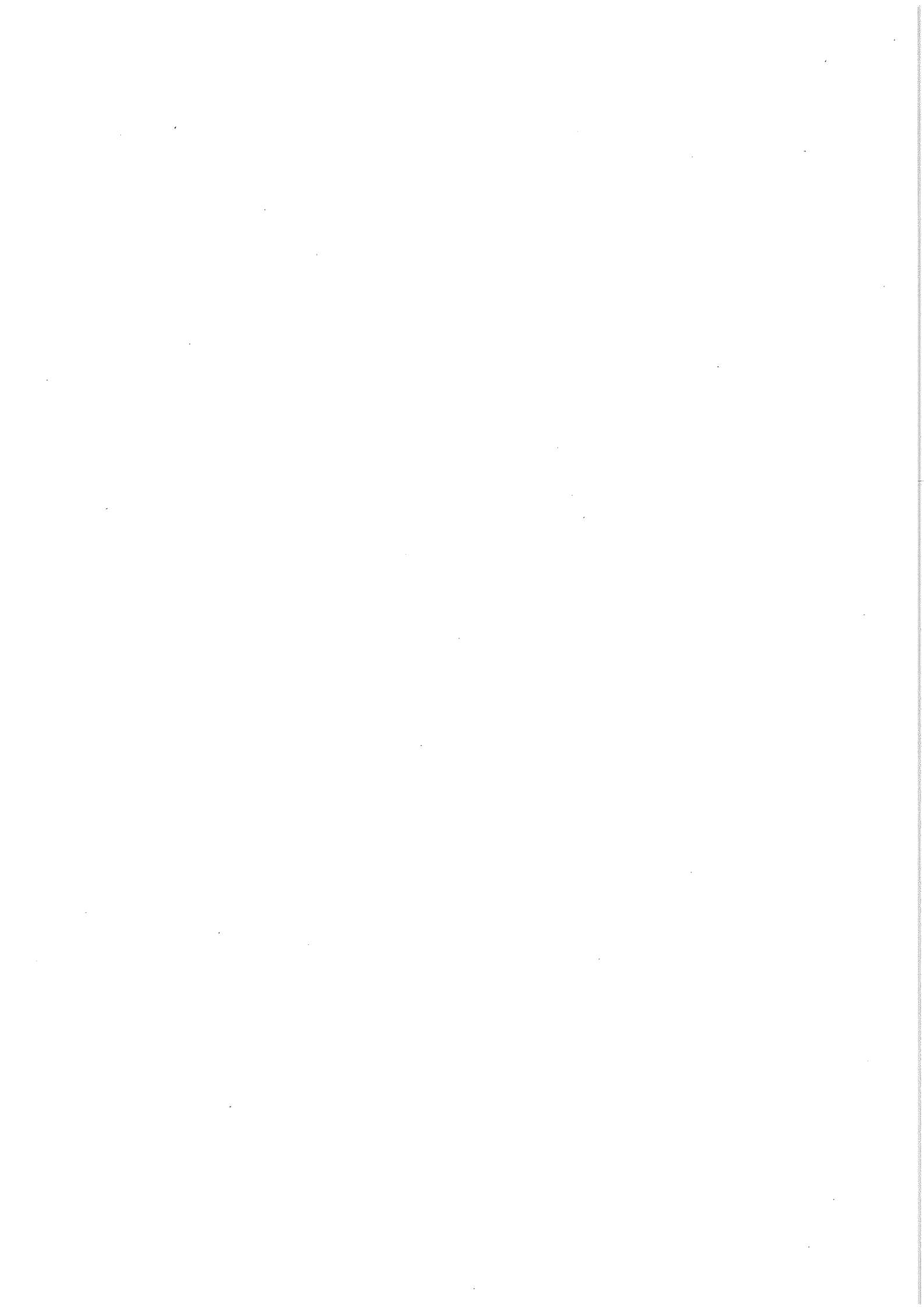
*Date 8/9/16*

Written by

*To be revised: September 2019*

Approved: 

5-5-17.



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St Werburgh's 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 'all pupils have a right not to be bullied' and that 'bullying is always unacceptable'. 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.

By cyber-bullying, we mean bullying by electronic media such as:

- 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, to include; Facebook, Snap Chat, YouTube, Instagram, What's App. etc.

### **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. **(See Computing policy)**

### **POLICY**

St Werburgh's C of E Primary School 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. A report is sent to the Head teacher weekly of any alerts that have been identified on the school system. **(See Safeguarding policy)**

St Werburgh's C of E Primary School trains its staff to respond effectively to reports of cyber-bullying or harassment and has systems in place to respond to it. St Werburgh's endeavor's to block access to inappropriate web sites, using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems and no pupil is allowed to work on the internet, without a member of staff present. Where appropriate and responsible, St Werburgh's audits ICT communications and regularly reviews the security arrangements in place with an external agency LINKIT whom manages all ICT across the school

Whilst education and guidance remain at the heart of what we do, St Werburgh's C of E Primary 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.
- St Werburgh's supports victims and, when necessary, will work with the Police to detect those involved in criminal acts.
- St Werburgh's 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.
- St Werburgh's 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 STAFF**

If you suspect or are told about a cyber-bullying incident, follow the protocol outlined below:

### **Mobile Phones**

- Ask the pupil to show you the mobile phone
- Note clearly everything on the screen relating to an inappropriate text message or image, to include the date, time and names
- Make a transcript of a spoken message, again record date, times and names
- Tell the pupil to save the message/image

Inform a member of the Senior Leadership team and pass them the information that you have **(See Behaviour policy)**

## **Computers (Laptops) and iPads**

- Ask the pupil to get up on-screen the material in question
- Ask the pupil to save the material
- Print off the offending material straight away
- Make sure you have got all pages in the right order and that there are no omissions
- Inform a member of the Senior Leadership team and pass them the information that you have

Normal procedures to interview pupils and to take statements will then be followed particularly if a child protection issue is presented. (See **Safeguarding policy**)

## **GUIDANCE FOR PUPILS**

If you believe you or someone else is the victim of cyber-bullying, you must speak to an adult as soon as possible. This person could be a parent/guardian, or a member of staff at St Werburgh's C of E Primary School.

- 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 St Werburgh's (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
- 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. St Werburgh's informs 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 St Werburgh's 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 a member of the Senior Leadership Team
- If the incident falls in the holidays St Werburgh's still reserves the right to take action against bullying perpetrated outside the school which spills over into the school

## **E-SAFETY AT HOME**

Several sites offer helpful advice to parents, particularly with respect to how they can best monitor their child's use of the computer at home. Important and useful information can be found on the following site:

[www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk/safeguarding-learners/Safeguarding-learners-content/Parents-and-carers](http://www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk/safeguarding-learners/Safeguarding-learners-content/Parents-and-carers)

## **ICT CODE OF CONDUCT**

This is displayed prominently in all classrooms and the Code of Conduct is explained and discussed with pupils in assemblies, PSHE classes and ICT classes.

## **NATIONAL BODIES**

Further support and guidance may be obtained from the following:

- [www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/tacklingbullying/cyber-bullying](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/tacklingbullying/cyber-bullying)

The following information can be downloaded from the above website:

- Safe to Learn: *Embedding anti-bullying work in schools* (2007):
- Cyber-bullying Guidance and Resources. Safe to Learn
- Cyber-bullying Summary Leaflet
- [www.antibullying.net/cyber-bullying1.htm](http://www.antibullying.net/cyber-bullying1.htm) for an Information Sheet for Teachers and other Professionals who work with Young People
- [www.becta.org.uk](http://www.becta.org.uk) for information on safeguarding learners
- Beatbullying Rochester House London SE19 2AT 020 8771 3377 [www.beatbullying.org](http://www.beatbullying.org)
- Anti-Bullying Alliance National Childrens Bureau 8 Wakley Street London EC1V 7QE 020 7843 1901 [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)



