



International Concept for Education

Lycée Français Bilingue International
Bilingual French International School

CYBER BULLYING POLICY

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I. Introduction

ICE gives the technological advancement its careful attention for the benefit it has on students' lives, achievement, and career development. However, our 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'. Our school also recognizes that it must take note of bullying perpetrated outside the school. Based on this belief and on the UAE national restrictions set to end all types of bullying, including Cyberbullying which is a serious issue that can have severe and long-lasting impacts on students' mental and emotional health, as well as their academic performance.

Our school is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning environment for all students, and we take cyberbullying very seriously. The purpose of this policy is to outline our school's approach to preventing and responding to cyberbullying.

II. Definition

Cyberbullying is defined as any behavior carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate another person through the use of electronic communication.

By cyberbullying, we mean bullying by electronic media:

- 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, 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 but not limited to Facebook, YouTube, Tiktok, Instagram and Ratemyteacher etc....

III. Prevention

Cyberbullying is generally criminal in character. The law applies to cyberspace and it is unlawful to spread defamatory information in any media including internet sites.

Cyberbullying is a very serious concern that could cause irreparable psychological damage,



especially to young people in their formative years.

ICE educates its pupils both in the proper use of telecommunications and about the serious consequences of cyberbullying and will, through lessons and assemblies, continue to inform and educate its pupils in these fast changing areas.

ICE trains its staff to respond effectively to reports of cyberbullying or harassment and has systems in place to respond to it. It blocks access to inappropriate web sites, using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems and no pupil is allowed to work on the internet in the Computer Room, or any other location within the school which may from time to time be used for such work, without a member of staff present.

Where appropriate and responsible, ICE audits ICT communications and regularly reviews the security arrangements in place.

Whilst education and guidance remain at the heart of what we do, the school reserves the right to take action against those who take part in cyberbullying.

- All bullying is damaging but cyberbullying and harassment can be invasive of privacy at all times. These acts may also be **criminal acts**.
- ICE supports victims and, when necessary, **will work with the Police to detect those involved in criminal acts**.
- The school 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**.
- ICE 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 Principal any case of cyberbullying or harassment that they know about or suspect.

IV. **Guidance for Students**

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, your tutor, or the supervisor.

- Do not answer abusive messages but log and report them
- Do not delete anything until it has been shown to your Teacher, parents/guardian or the supervisor (even if it is upsetting, the material is important evidence which may need to be used later as proof of cyberbullying)
- Do not give out personal ID details



- Never reply to abusive e-mails
- Never reply to someone you do not know
- Stay in public areas in chat rooms

V. 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. ICE informs parents of the cyber-bullying policy and the procedures in place to deal with cyberbullying.
- Parents can help by making sure their child understands the school's policy and, above all, how seriously the school takes incidents of cyber-bullying
- Parents should also explain to their sons or daughters' legal issues relating to cyberbullying (Refer to UAE law regarding digital crimes)
- 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 Head of the school as soon as possible. A meeting can then be arranged with the Head, which may involve other relevant members of staff
- If the incident falls in the holidays the school reserves the right to take action against bullying perpetrated outside the school which spills over into the school.

VI. 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.

VII. Investigation and Consequences

When a report of cyberbullying is made, our school will conduct a thorough investigation to determine the facts of the situation. If it is determined that cyberbullying has occurred, appropriate consequences will be imposed. Consequences may include counseling, mediation, loss of privileges or suspension, depending on the severity and frequency of the behavior.



VIII. Conclusion

Our school takes cyberbullying very seriously and is committed to creating a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. By working together and being vigilant about cyberbullying, we can ensure that our students are able to learn and grow without fear of harassment or intimidation.