Park View Primary School
Anti-Cyberbullying Policy

The Keep Learning Trust

Creating Chances and Choices

Date of review:	**February 2026**
Approved by:	**Headteacher**
Next review date:	**February 2027**

Park View Primary School Anti-Cyberbullying Policy

This school believes that all people in our community have the right to teach and learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. We believe that every individual in school has a duty to report an incident of bullying whether it happens to themselves or to another person.

Park View educates its pupils both in the proper use of telecommunications and about the serious consequences of Cyberbullying and will, through SEAL lessons, e-safety lessons and assemblies, continue to inform and educate its pupils in these fast changing areas.

Park View trains its staff to respond effectively to reports of Cyberbullying or harassment and has systems in place to respond to it. The Bury authority endeavours 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 being present.

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

What is Cyberbullying?

There are many types of Cyberbullying. Although there may be some of which we are unaware, here are the more common.

1. **Text messages** —that are threatening or cause discomfort - also included here is "Bluejacking" (the sending of anonymous text messages over short distances using "Bluetooth" wireless technology)

2. **Picture/video-clips** via mobile phone cameras - images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed.

3. **Mobile phones calls**—silent calls or abusive messages; or stealing the victim's 'phone and using it to harass others, to make them believe the victim is responsible.

4. **Emails**—threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else's name.

5. **Chatroom bullying** —menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in web-based Chatroom.

6. **Instant messaging/smart phone apps** (IM) —unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real-time conversations online using MSM (Microsoft Messenger)or Yahoo Chat– although there are others such as facebook, twitter, what's app, snapchat, instagram etc.

7. **Bullying via websites** —use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal "own web space" sites such as Bebo (which works by signing on in one's school, therefore making it easy to find a victim) and Myspace – although there are others.

Other Issues

Technology allows the user to bully anonymously or from an unknown location, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Cyberbullying leaves no physical scars so it is, perhaps, less evident to a parent or teacher, but it is highly intrusive and the hurt it causes can be very severe.

Young people are particularly adept at adapting to new technology, an area that can seem a closed world to adults. For example, the numerous acronyms used by young people in chat rooms and in text messages (POS - Parents Over Shoulder, TUL – Tell You Later) make it difficult for adults to recognise potential threats.

At Park View School, pupils are taught how to:

- Understand how to use these technologies safely and know about the risks
- and consequences of misusing them.
- Know what to do if they or someone they know are being cyber bullied.
- Report any problems with cyber bullying. If they do have a problem, they
- can talk to the school, parents, the police, the mobile network (for phone) or
- the Internet Service Provider (ISP) to do something about it.

Park View Primary School has:

1. An Internet Acceptable Use Agreement that includes clear statements about ecommunications
2. Information for parents on: E-communication standards and practices in schools, what to do if problems arise, what's being taught in the curriculum.
3. Support for parents and pupils if cyber bullying occurs by: assessing the harm caused, identifying those involved, taking steps to repair harm and to prevent recurrence.

At Park View Primary School, Cyberbullying is taken very seriously. It will not be tolerated any more then any other type of bullying and will be dealt with as a situation in its own right. An episode may result in a simple verbal warning and might result in a parental discussion. Clearly, more serious cases will result in further sanctions, such as exclusion.

Legal Issues

Cyberbullying is generally criminal in character. The law applies 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.

GUIDANCE FOR STAFF

If you suspect or are told about a Cyberbullying 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
- Go with the pupil and see the Head, or in his absence, a member of the Senior Leadership Team

Computers

- 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
- Accompany the pupil, taking the offending material, to see the Head
- Normal procedures to interview pupils and to take statements will then be followed particularly if a child protection issue is presented.

National Bodies

Further support and guidance may be obtained from the following:
www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/tacklingbullying/Cyberbullying
www.bullying.co.uk
The following information can be downloaded from the above website:

- Safe to Learn: *Embedding anti-bullying work in schools* (2007):
- Cyberbullying Guidance and Resources. Safe to Learn
- Cyberbullying Summary Leaflet

www.antibullying.net/Cyberbullying1.htm for an Information Sheet for Teachers and other Professionals who work with Young People
www.becta.org.uk for information on safeguarding learners
Beatbullying Anti-Bullying Alliance
Rochester House National Childrens Bureau
4 Belvedere Road 8 Wakley Street
London London
SE19 2AT EC1V 7QE
020 8771 3377 020 7843 1901
www.beatbullying.org www.anti-bullyingalliance