

Pakistan Islamia Higher Secondary School Sharjah



Anti-Cyberbullying Policy 2024-2025



Showing Respect to others

A Reflection of You

What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying may be defined as ‘the use of electronic communication, particularly mobile phones, and the internet, to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature: children and adults may be reluctant to admit to being the victims of cyberbullying’. It can take a number of different forms: threats and intimidation, harassment or ‘cyber-stalking’ (e.g. repeatedly sending unwanted texts or instant messages), sexting (e.g sending and receiving sexually explicit messages, primarily between mobile phones) vilification/defamation, exclusion/peer rejection, impersonation, unauthorized publication of private information/images and ‘trolling’ (abusing the internet to provoke or offend others online). It can be an extension of face-to-face bullying, with technology providing the bully with another route to harass their target.

Statement of Intent

PIHSS believes that technology is an integral part of the current teaching and learning process and it is providing immense benefits to the students. This policy ensures all the community members to understand both the benefits and its risks. The school ensures that all students must be aware that the misuse of technology can bring reverse effects and dangerous consequences, and therefore, its safe use and understanding is essential.

Aims

The policy aims to ensure:

- Students feel to be safeguarded in real and virtual world
- Pupils, staff and parents are educated to understand what cyber bullying is and what its consequences can be
- Knowledge of policies and procedures are in place to prevent incidents of cyber bullying in school or within the school community
- The school has effective measures to deal effectively with cases of cyber bullying
- The school ensures the effectiveness of prevention measures

Forms of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying takes different forms:

- threats and intimidation
- harassment or stalking (e.g. repeatedly sending unwanted texts or instant messages)
- vilification and defamation; ostracism and peer rejection
- impersonation; and forwarding or publicly posting private information or images
- posting comments, messages, photos or screenshots that are mean, threatening, untrue, personal, secret or embarrassing
- anonymous messages or abuse (on social networks or online gaming)
- filming you or taking photos of you without your consent
- Creating fake accounts or profiles
- 'indirect' messages when you don't directly name someone but everyone knows who you are talking about

How school will respond to prevent cyberbullying?

We believe that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. For the prevention of cyberbullying the whole school staff will work cooperatively to provide safe and secure environment to the students. For example:

- ✓ understanding and talking about cyberbullying
- ✓ integrating cyberbullying prevention into relevant policies and practice
- ✓ All school staff are required to undertake regularly updated safeguarding and child protection training
- ✓ The school will consider creative approaches that are relevant to the technologies their community use
- ✓ Cyberbullying to be addressed in the curriculum to enhance students' moral, social, and personal development
- ✓ Awareness-raising and promoting understanding about cyberbullying through discussions
- ✓ Promoting the positive use of technology

Responsibilities of the Staff

- ✓ All employers including employers of school staff have a duty to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees
- ✓ All staff members have a duty to protect students from all forms of bullying behavior and provide a safe, healthy environment
- ✓ The staff will ensure children are taught about online safety through teaching and learning opportunities
- ✓ Teachers, including headteachers, must safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties
- ✓ All school staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn, this includes in digital as well as physical spaces
- ✓ Staff will educate students that enabling a PIN or passcode is an important step to protect you from losing personal data and images
- ✓ The staff is familiar with the key laws and statutory guidance which relate to cyberbullying

What students will know about Cyberbullying?

The students will get to know that if they are bullied online they need to:

- Report incidents appropriately and seek support from your line manager or a senior member of staff
- Never retaliate or respond in abrupt anger
- Save evidence of the abuse; take screen prints of messages or web pages and record the time and date
- Raise complaint appropriately and fairly which is not harming any innocent person
- Online harassment is a crime against anyone
- If the comments are threatening or abusive, sexist, of a sexual nature or constitute a hate crime, you or a representative from the school may consider contacting the local police

Identification of Bullying Behavior

Bullying behavior can take different forms. The following are examples of different types of bullying type behavior:

- ✓ physical aggression, for example, through hitting, kicking, pushing or tripping.
- ✓ interference with another's property, causing deliberate damage to that property, or theft.
- ✓ verbal, for example, through racist, homophobic, transphobic or sectarian remarks, threats, name calling or demeaning comments.
- ✓ emotional hurt, for example, through isolating or excluding an individual from the activities and social acceptance of his/her peer group or spreading rumors

- ✓ intimidation and harassment, for example, through pressure from members of a group against an individual so that he/she feels uneasy or frightened.
- ✓ using Information and Communications Technology to deliberately upset someone else, for example through mobile phone calls, text messages, postings on social media, sending picture/video clips via mobile phones, emails, chatrooms, instant messaging and websites. This is called electronic bullying and is the subject of a separate policy, the school's Anti-Cyberbullying Policy

Disciplinary Action on Cyberbullying

The violation of the school code of conduct and harming others will lead to:

- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Legal action

Restorative Measures

In case of community conduct violations, the perpetrators can be subjected to:

- Apology
- Community service
- Educational and restorative program

Link to other Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Anti-bullying Policy
- Behavior Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Code of Conduct Policy
- SEND Policy
- Health and Safety Policy