



Policy on Cyber Bullying (finalized Nov 2018)

This document is an attachment to Lake Monger Primary School's Behaviour Management Policy.

Bullying occurs when a person or a group of people take(s) steps to negatively influence or intimidate another individual or group of people. Cyber bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies such as email, text messages, instant messaging and websites to engage in the bullying of others. This technology provides an alternate means for verbal, relational and psychological forms of bullying. Bullying in any form is unacceptable and is not tolerated at Lake Monger Primary School.

Lake Monger Primary School acknowledges that preventing and responding to cyber bullying is a whole community responsibility, and involves parent education and support by the School.

Prevention

Lake Monger Primary School has implemented the following steps with a view to preventing cyber bullying:

1. Each student and his or her primary caregiver is required to sign an Acceptable Usage Agreement before the student may use the School's ICT resources.
2. All students are provided with individual computer logins and passwords in order to access the School's computers and tablets.
3. Students in each class are informed of the rules for using the School's computers and tablets, which include using polite and respectful language, and not using mean, hurtful or harmful language. The students are aware that if these rules are not followed, they will not be permitted to use the School's computers and tablets.
4. Students in years 1 to 6 are taught protective behaviours when using the computers and tablets.
5. All student usage of the School's computers and tablets during school hours is subject to teacher supervision.
6. Access to internet sites on the School's computers and tablets is heavily regulated and restricted through the application of web filters.
7. If the School has any concerns regarding a student's usage of the School's tablets and computers, or is aware of issues regarding potential bullying by that student, the School is able to monitor and/or review the student's usage history.
8. The School has implemented its Mobile Phone and Mobile Device Policy, which restricts mobile phone usage during school hours.



Response

If Lake Monger Primary School becomes aware that a student is subject to cyber bullying, the School will investigate the situation, counsel the students involved, and record the incident(s). Depending on the situation, and as it deems appropriate, the School may:

1. notify the primary caregivers of all students involved in the incident(s);
2. provide support to any or all of the students involved in the cyber bullying incident(s) (including referral to or intervention by the school psychologist and other support services such as the Office of the eSafety Commissioner);
3. take disciplinary action against any student(s) engaged in cyber bullying; and/or
4. notify the police of the incident(s).

Additional resources

In implementing this policy, Lake Monger Primary School may seek guidance from additional entities or resources such as the Office of the e–Safety Commissioner, the Department of Education’s Professional Learning Protective Behaviours materials, Hector’s World and Cyber Quoll.