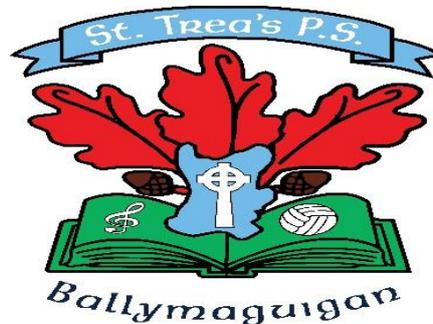# St Trea's Primary School and Woods Primary School

Cyber Bullying Policy

Live Well, Laugh Together, Learn Forever!

Together we learn, Together we achieve!

Date Ratified by BOG: May 19

In St. Trea's Primary school and Woods Primary School we believe that everyone in the school community has the right to learn and teach in a supportive and caring environment without fear of being bullied. We are committed to helping all members of the school community to use ICT, whilst understanding its risks and to equip children with the knowledge and skills to be able to use it safely and responsibly.

Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

1. Pupils, staff and parents know about cyber bullying and its consequences;
2. We have the knowledge, policies and procedures to prevent and if necessary, to deal with cyber bullying in school;
3. We monitor the effectiveness of the procedures.

What is Cyber Bullying?

- Cyber bullying includes sending or posting harmful or upsetting text, images or other messages, using the internet, mobile phones or other communication technology.
- It can take place across all age groups and target pupils, staff and others
- It can include messages intended as jokes, but which have a harmful or upsetting effect

Cyber bullying may be carried out in different ways, including:

- Threatening, intimidating or upsetting text messages;
- Threatening or embarrassing pictures and video clips via mobile phone cameras
- Silent or abusive phone calls
- Threatening or bullying emails

Prevention of Cyber Bullying

- The Principal will act, as an e-safety officer, to oversee the practices and procedures outlined in the policy and monitor its effectiveness.
- The e-safety officer will ensure that the school maintains details of agencies and resources that may assist in preventing and addressing bullying.
- Staff will be made aware of signs of cyber bullying and will be kept informed about changing technologies that children commonly use (where possible taking into account that technology changes so fast)
- Pupils will be informed about cyber bullying through curricular and pastoral activities.
- If possible parents will be provided with information and advice on cyber bullying when possible.

Responding to Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying will generally be dealt with through the school's promoting positive behaviour and Anti-Bullying policy.

Advice will be sought from the EA Safeguarding team and when appropriate the PSNI will be contacted. Parents will be informed.

Consideration will be given to-

- Impact; possibly extensive scale and scope
- Location; the anytime anywhere nature of cyber bullying
- Anonymity; the person demonstrating the bullying behaviour might not realise that his/her actions are bullying
- Evidence; the subject of the bullying or witnesses will have evidence of what happened

Investigation

Again, the nature of any investigation will depend on the circumstances. It may include, for example.

- Review of the evidence and seeking advice (from the PSNI or safeguarding team) in relation to preserving it, for example by saving or printing (e.g. phone messages, texts, emails, website pages)
- Efforts to identify the person demonstrating bullying behaviour, which may include looking at the media systems and sites used. Witnesses may have useful information.

Support for the Person Being Bullied

As with any form of bullying, support for the individual will depend on the circumstances.

Examples include:

- Emotional support and reassurance that it was right to report the incident.
- Advice not to retaliate or reply, but to keep the evidence and show or give it to their parent or a member of staff.
- Advice on other aspects of the code to prevent re-occurrences.
- Advice on how the person demonstrating bullying behaviour might be blocked from the individual's sites or services.
- Actions where possible and appropriate, to have offending material removed.
- Advice to consider changing email addresses and/or mobile phone numbers.
- Discuss contacting the police in cases of suspected illegal content.

Working with the Person Demonstrating Bullying Behaviour

Work with the person carrying out the cyber bullying and any sanctions will be determined on an individual basis, in accordance with the Anti-Bullying Policy, with the intention of:

- Helping the person harmed to feel safe again and to be assured that the bullying will stop.

- Holding the person demonstrating the bullying behaviour to account, so that they recognise the harm caused and do not repeat the behaviour.
- Helping bullies to recognise the consequences of their actions and facilitating change in their attitude and behaviour.
- Demonstrating that cyber bullying, as any other form of bullying, is unacceptable and that the school has effective ways of dealing with it.

Evaluating and Monitoring the Effectiveness of Counter Bullying Procedures

- Teachers will report any incidences of cyber bullying to the Principal (new or repeated).
- Principal will review any incidents that have occurred to ensure that the procedures followed have been effective.
- The review will take into account comments and suggested areas for improvement from staff and students.
- Continued action/support will be implemented as required.

Support List for the Prevention of Cyber Bullying

- ➢ KidsSmart website
- ➢ Childnet International website
- ➢ 'Click Clever, Click Safe' Programme
- ➢ Think u know webite
- ➢ CEOP

Review

The schools will monitor the policy regularly and review annually.