



## CYBER BULLYING POLICY

At NBA Al Dafna, we take all forms of bullying very seriously. We seek educate our students on the risks involved with cyber bullying through assemblies and ICT lessons and seek to support parents where possible, to be aware of any risks.

### **What makes Cyber Bullying so threatening and difficult to manage?**

This can be different to other forms of bullying in that:

- It can be 24/7 and invade home/personal space.
- The audience can be very large and can be reached rapidly.
- The cyber bully can attempt to remain anonymous.
- The offensive message can be repeatedly accessed by the victim. Cyber bullying can occur via mobile phones and the internet, using images and videos as well as texts. Retaliation can also be classified as cyber-bullying.

Although it is accepted that there is no single solution to cyber bullying, the school will seek to:

1. Raise the issue of cyber bullying through whole school assemblies. The focus of these will be to make students aware of the impact of cyber bullying and the ways it differs from other forms of bullying.
2. Promote the positive use of technology by engaging positive, effective and personalising learning by making it more flexible, creative and accessible.
3. Give students advice about using technology safely.
4. Update protocol and practice and share this with staff, parents and learners.
5. Render the reporting of bullying easier through use of a common form.
6. Evaluate the impact of prevention activities.

### **The role of the parent is paramount in the control of on-line bullying.**

Parents have a responsibility to police what the young person is accessing. There are chat rooms that a child could use where they could have, in theory, access to millions of people on-line, throughout the world. Most worryingly, this can take place at any time and intrude into places that have been regarded as safe and personal. Any abuse of the school's ICT facilities will be treated very seriously by the school and may well result in the withdrawal of the child's access to the school's network.

### **Key Safety Advice for Parents and Carers**

- Be aware, your child may as likely cyber bully as be a target of cyber bullying. Be alert to your child seeming upset after using the internet or their mobile phone. This might involve subtle comment or changes in relationships with friends. They might be unwilling to talk or be secretive about their on-line activities and mobile phone use.



- Talk with your children and understand the ways in which they are using the internet and their mobile phone
- Use the tools on the service and turn on in-built internet safety features. (See below)
- Remind your children not to retaliate.
- Keep the evidence of offending emails, text messages or on-line conversations.
- Report cyber bullying: → Contact the school if it involves another student. → Contact the service provider.

## **Social Networks**

- Bebo: Click on a “Report Abuse” link located below the user’s profile photo.
  - MySpace: “Contact MySpace” link which is accessible at the bottom of the MySpace homepage.
  - Picto: There is a “Report Bad Content” button at the top of every member page
  - Instant Messenger MSN: When in Windows Live Messenger, clicking the “help” tab will bring up a “Report Abuse” option.
  - Yahoo: When in Yahoo! Messenger, clicking the help tab will bring up a range of options, including “Report Abuse”
  - Facebook: Contact the provider
  - Twitter: Contact the provider
  - Snapchat: Contact the provider
- How might you recognise that your child is being bullied?

## **How do you know if your child is being bullied?**

- A change in usual patterns of behaviour and attitude.
- Becoming withdrawn.
- Becoming distressed and crying.
- A change in eating patterns.
- A change in sleeping patterns or nightmares.
- Unexplained bruises.
- Asking for money
- They refuse to say what is wrong.

If you suspect that your child is being bullied through social media or electronics communication, please contact the school immediately.