

Cyber Bullying

All forms of bullying, whether it be physical, verbal or cyber are not tolerated at any level in Victorian government schools.

Bullying that is carried out through an internet service, such as email, chat room, discussion group or instant messaging is an offence. It can also include bullying through mobile phone technologies such as short messaging service (SMS).

Examples of cyber bullying include teasing, spreading rumours online, ending unwanted messages, or defamation.

Multimedia technologies have created new domains in which young people learn and interact. Technology such as mobile phones, SMS, in-phone cameras, emails and chat rooms can be an effective way to learn and a great way to communicate.

The challenge is to raise awareness so that victims and witnesses will feel comfortable enough to speak up. Everyone has a right to feel safe and not be bullied. Our best chance of eliminating bullying is when students, parents and teachers work together. Parents need to talk to their children about the seriousness and potential criminality of cyber bullying. Parents have a right to supervise their child's access to on-line use, establish safety procedures and prohibit bullying.

Consequences

- 1st Offence Suspended use of the Internet for 4 weeks
Parent(s) informed
Counseling
- 2nd Offence Suspended use of the Internet for 3 months
Suspension of other privileges for 2 weeks
Meeting with Parent(s)
- 3rd Offence Reported to police
Parent(s) informed

Cyber Bullying is a criminal offence.

If students use technology in an inappropriate fashion then they could be committing a crime. Messages, phone calls, and chat rooms can be traced, even if a false name is used.

The numerous state and commonwealth laws which cover cyber crime include:

1. The Commonwealth's Criminal Code Act 1995, section 4.7.4.17 notes that it is an offence for a person to use 'a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence'.
2. The Commonwealth's Criminal Code Act 1995, section 4.7.4.15 notes that it is an offence for a person to use 'a carriage service to make a threat'.
3. The Commonwealth's Crimes Act 1914, part VIIB, section 85ZE notes that it is an offence for 'a person to knowingly or recklessly use a telecommunications service supplied by a carrier in such a way as would be regarded by reasonable persons being, in all the circumstances, offensive'.
4. The Victorian Crimes Act 1958 was amended in 1995 to include the offence of 'stalking'. This includes telephoning and sending electronic messages with the intention of causing physical or mental harm.
5. The sending of images is also covered by various State and Commonwealth laws that prevent the publication of material that is objectionable, unclassified or unsuitable for minors.

Person Responsible : Class Teachers

Inform : Parents, Wellbeing Team, Principal

Data : Principal