

Nurture ~ Believe ~ Discover ~ Achieve

Safa Vision

At SCS we aim to enable our learners to have success for today and to be prepared for tomorrow.

نحن في مدرسة الصفا كوميونيتي نسعى الى تأهيل طلابنا للنجاح اليوم وتحضيرهم لمواجهة المستقبل

Cyberbullying Policy 2023-2024

Updated: October 2023

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Safa Community School

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1.0 Rationale

As a school, we recognise that technology plays an important and positive role in everyone's lives, both educationally and socially. We believe that everyone in the school community has the right to learn and teach in a supportive, respectful and caring environment without fear of being bullied.

2.0 Aims

We are committed to helping all members of the school community to understand both the benefits and the risks, and to equip children with the knowledge and skills to be able to use technology safely and responsibly. This policy aims to ensure that:

1. Pupils, staff and parents know about cyberbullying and the consequences.
2. We have the knowledge, policies and procedures to prevent and, if necessary, to deal with cyberbullying within school or the school community.
3. We monitor the effectiveness of our procedures.

3.0 Definition of Bullying

What is cyber bullying?

- Cyber bullying includes sending or posting harmful or upsetting text, images or messages using the internet, social media, phones or other digital technology.
- It can take many forms, but can go even further than face to face bullying by invading home and personal space and can target one or more people.
- It can include threats, intimidation, harassment, defamation, exclusion or peer rejection, impersonation and unauthorised publication of private information or images.

Cyber bullying can be carried out in many ways, including:

- Threatening, intimidating or upsetting emails, text or images.
- Threatening or embarrassing pictures, video clips or text.
- Silent or abusive phone calls or using the victim's phone to harass others, making them think the victim is responsible.
- Unpleasant messages or responses.

In some cases, these types of bullying or defamation can be a criminal offense.

4.0 Prevention of Cyberbullying

At Safa Community School, we have clear prevention strategies including:

- Dedicated members of staff oversee the practices and procedures outlined in this policy and monitor their effectiveness.
- CPD by National Online Safety who specialise in the prevention of Cyberbullying.
- Identification of signs of cyberbullying will be shared with staff.
- Pupils will be informed and taught about the risks and internet safety through our digital curriculum lesson, digital safety framework and pastoral activities.
- Child Protection training by dedicated members of staff will include cyber bullying identification and what to do.
- Positive use of digital technology will be promoted throughout the school and reviewed and monitored by the Digital Curriculum Leaders.
- Partnerships between home and school to encourage clear communication.

4.1 Digital Leader Framework and BYOD Contract

At Safa Community School all staff and students follow a Digital Learner Framework which runs community wide, this is also shared with parents to ensure the children are receiving the same information at home as they are at school.

This framework is built around the importance of a positive digital life and how we can prevent, educate and stop cyberbullying within our community. Children are also provided with a BYOD contract at the beginning of Year 5 and Year 6. This clearly states the expectations of what it means to be a Safa Digital Citizen, whilst also outlining potential consequences. Please click the hyperlink to view the [SCS Digital Safety Framework](#) and [BYOD Contract](#).

5.0 Support

If an incident of cyberbullying is reported by a pupil, staff member or parent, it will be investigated by a member of the Pastoral Team. This will involve:

- Review of evidence and advice to preserve it, for example saving or printing of messages.
- Investigation to identify the perpetrator by looking at the media, sites and discussions with any witnesses.
- Requesting a pupil to reveal digital technology content. Staff do not have the authority to search the

contents of a device.

- Reporting incidents of cyber bullying to the Head Teacher who will take the necessary action in taking this further.

As with any form of bullying, support for the individuals will be dependent on the circumstances. Emotional support via the Pastoral Team and/or referral to the School Counsellor will be provided as required. Students will regularly receive Pastoral check ins to monitor their social and emotional wellbeing.

6.0 Monitoring, Roles and Responsibilities

Children and members of staff will report any incidents of cyberbullying to the appropriate member of the pastoral team. The member of staff will then:

- Investigate and gather the required information or evidence
- Discuss incidents with any or all of the students involved
- Meet with parents to feedback information and next steps in moving forward
- Use the restorative justice system and make any required referrals

7.0 Reference Documents

Other policies supporting this document include:

- Pastoral Policy
- Anti-bullying Bullying Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- SCS Digital Learning Policy
- BYOD Policy

8.0 Regulatory References

The Federal Law No. 5 2012, was issued by the President his Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nayhan and is commonly known as the 'Cyber Crimes Law'. It is the Cyber Crimes Law that provides the most practical recourse for victims of crimes involving technology.

Article 20 deals with slander: *any person who insults a third party or has attributed to him an incident that may make him subject to punishment or contempt by a third party by using an Information Network or an Information Technology Tool shall be punished by imprisonment and a fine not less than (AED 250,000) and not exceeding (AED 500,000) or by any of these punishments.*

Article 16 of the Cyber Crimes Law states that a perpetrator of an action that could be considered to be extortion *shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of two years at most and a fine not less than AED 250,000 and not in excess of AED 500,000, or either of these two penalties*. Accordingly, threatening to bully someone unless money is received may lead to severe penalties – the act of bullying does not have to eventuate, it can simply be threatened. If the extortioner uses the threat of bullying (eg; “I’ll tell everyone that you...”) in order to extract money or something of value from the victim, they may be found guilty under this law.

Article 15 of the New Cyber Crimes Law also states that it is an offence for persons to intentionally and without permission capture and/or intercept communications online.

9. Monitoring and Evaluating:

The school has a committee, board, senior leadership team and designated Cyberbullying person who regularly monitor Cyberbullying in their areas of responsibility. All concerns are reported via the appropriate procedures.

10. Useful website on cyber bullying

UAE Government Website on Cyber Crime

<https://www.government.ae/en/information-and-services/justice-safety-and-the-law/cyber-safety-and-digital-security>

Beat the Cyberbully

<https://beatthecyberbully.ae/>

Think u Know

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Cybersmile Foundation

<https://www.cybersmile.org/>

National Online Safety

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

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