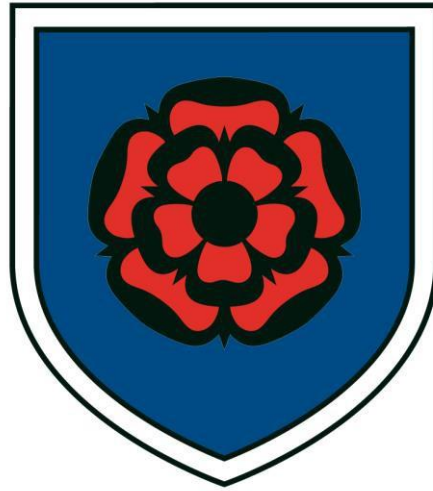


Mossfield Primary School



Parent's Guide to responding to Cyber Bullying Incidents



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The Governors and Staff at Mossfield Primary School take reported incidents of online bullying very seriously. We find that a joint approach, involving actions from the school, the parents and the child works best in resolving such issues. This document sets out the expectations all concerned in dealing with online and social media incidents involving our pupils.

Action expected from the school

What school will do if a report is received that a child is being bullied on the internet:

- Where the identities of the pupils involved is known, or can be deduced, the victim and the bully will be interviewed, either separately or together, at the discretion of the Headteacher. Witnesses to events will be sought, especially where accounts of events differ.
- The headteacher will investigate the incidents as fairly and impartially as possible. Where appropriate, sanctions may be applied to the bully, or both children, if blame can be attributed to both sides. These sanctions will fit the severity of the incidents reported, as judged by the headteacher.
- Both victim and bully will be offered suggestions as how they can overcome the problem and how they should behave and stay safe online.
- Both victim and bully will be spoken to on a regular to check whether things are improving or are becoming worse.
- A 'Bullying Incident' report will be completed and kept on file in school, by the headteacher. The SIMS school management database will be used for this purpose, recording bullying incidents on the child's school record.
- Parents of both victim and bully will be informed, if determine necessary by the headteacher.
- In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered. Police involvement can also be considered in severe cases.
- If possible, the pupils will be reconciled, but where this is not possible, they will be instructed to stay away from each other, both offline and online. Both will be expected to comply with this ruling. Parents are expected to fully support the school in this matter.

Action expected from the parents

What the parent will do if a report is received that a child is being bullied on the internet:

- Cancel and permanently close all social media accounts held by their child, where the child does not meet the age restrictions for that site, as laid out in their terms and conditions.
A list of minimum age limits for common social networking sites are listed in Appendix 1 of this document.
- Install and maintain effective internet filtering on your home internet connection.
- Ensure that the child only uses devices with an internet connection when they are directly supervised by a responsible adult. Children should NEVER be allowed unsupervised access below the age of 12.
- Only allow supervised usage of a mobile phone, especially for SMS messages and internet connectivity.
- Use the “Report Offence” and “Report Abuse” buttons as required, and train your child to follow safe internet usage protocols – See Appendix 2.

Why parents should actively enforce the age restriction on all social media sites:

1. A child under the age of 13 years is protected by the terms and conditions of the sites owners. Essentially, this helps to protect a child’s personal information from being collected and shared. Creating an account for a child under 13, using a false date of birth, circumvents the terms and conditions intended to protect your child. The consequences? The social networks, and all the information your child provides it, are completely out of your control and available to anyone on the internet.

2. Children know the under 13 rule. So, if you, as a parent, falsify your child’s age to create an account or knowingly give your consent that your child has lied to create the account, you are actively providing a moral / ethical example that is it OK to lie on the internet. You are suggesting to your child that the rules do not apply to them. That they have an “exception.” We do not believe this is the correct message to be sending. Teaching appropriate boundaries and limitations on the internet are of paramount importance. Parents should be providing an example of ethical and responsible internet citizenship. This means enforcing the rules around age limits.

3. Children under 13 do not have the intellectual or emotional maturity to handle social media. Primary school age children are just beginning to navigate the challenges of real-life adult social interactions. In turn, they do not have the experience or the reasoning needed to correctly respond to online social exchange. Primary school age pupils are also increasingly becoming victims of online harassment, solicitation, and cyberbullying. Allowing a child aged under the age of 13 on a major social site is only prematurely increasing this risk.

Why parents should install or enable effective internet filtering:

There is content on the internet which no parent wants their child to see, and, despite what you may think, often children inadvertently stumble upon inappropriate things while searching for something else.

The internet is predominantly an unregulated environment. Whether it be unscrupulous scam merchants or purveyors of pornographic images, the web's anonymous nature gives others the opportunity to post whatever they want.

Because of this, a totally open internet is extremely unsafe for children.

Why children under 11 should be directly supervised when online:

(created by Microsoft 2015)

Supervise your children until they are over the age of age 11. You can use Internet safety tools to limit access to content, websites, and activities, and be actively involved in supervising your child's Internet use, but Microsoft recommends that you sit with your child when they use the Internet, until they are over the age of 11.

Here are some safety tips to consider when you go online with your 2-11 year old:

1. It's never too early to foster open and positive communication with children. It's a good idea to talk with them about computers and to stay open to their questions and curiosity.
2. Always sit with your kids at this age when they're online, As they get older, say 10 and 11, give a little more freedom and perhaps just ensure that the computer / device is only used in a public area of the home, where you can keep an eye on what is being accessed.
3. Set clear rules for Internet use.
4. Insist that your children not share personal information such as their real name, address, phone number, or passwords with people they meet online.
5. If a site encourages kids to submit their names to personalize the web content, help your kids create online nicknames that don't give away personal information.

6. Use family safety tools to create appropriate profiles for each family member and to help filter the Internet.

For more information, see [Windows Live Family Safety](#), [Windows 7 Parental Controls](#), or [Windows Vista Parental Controls](#).

Help protect your children from offensive pop-up windows by using the pop-up blocker that's built in to [Internet Explorer](#).

7. All family members should act as role models for young children who are just starting to use the Internet.

Action expected from the children

What Kids Need to Know:

- Never give out personal information online, whether in instant message profiles, chat rooms, blogs, or personal websites.
- Follow all the rules set by your parents regarding internet access.
- Do not sign up for social networking sites until you are old enough.
- Never tell anyone but your parents your password, even friends.
- If someone sends a mean or threatening message, don't respond. Save it or print it out and show it to an adult.
- Never open emails from someone you don't know or from someone you know is a bully.
- Don't put anything online that you wouldn't want your classmates to see, even in email.
- Don't send messages when you're angry. Before clicking "send," ask yourself how you would feel if received the message.
- Help kids who are bullied online by not joining in and showing bullying messages to an adult.
- Always be as polite online as you are in person.

Since most cyberbullying takes place at home, it's important that parents know about cyberbullying and that they get involved in preventing it. Just like parents help their kids avoid inappropriate websites, they can protect them from cyberbullying.

Appendix 1

Age limits for some current social networking sites-

13

14

16

17

Facebook

LinkedIn

WhatsApp

Vine

Twitter

Tinder

Instagram

Path

Pinterest

Google +

Oovoo

Tumblr

Reddit

Snapchat

Secret

You Tube (PP)

We Chat (PP)

Keek(PP)

Kik(PP)

FourSquare (PP)

Flickr(PP)

(PP) = Parental Permission required