Trafalgar High School

CYBER BULLYING POLICY

Help for non-English speakers
If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Trafalgar High School on (03) 5633 1733

RATIONALE

Bullying in any form is unacceptable. Bullying that is carried out through an internet service, such as email, chat room, discussion group or instant messaging or through mobile phone technologies and applications such as short messaging service (SMS), Snapchat, Facebook and Instagram is cyber bullying. Cyber bullying can be very destructive and will not be tolerated at any level, and serious consequences exist for students who choose to bully others.

AIMS

- To reinforce within the school community what bullying is (including cyber bullying), and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of cyber bullying are investigated appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.

Description of Cyber Bullying:

Cyberbullying is bullying using digital technologies including mobile phones, email and social media tools. Cyberbullying includes:
- Pranking: Repeated hang ups, anonymous, mocking or threatening phone calls.
- Image sharing: Forwarding or sharing unflattering or private images without permission.
- Sexually explicit images: People of any age, who forward or share images of a sexual nature of a person under 18 need to be aware that this is a criminal offence (child pornography) that may result in prosecution.
- Text and email: Sending insulting or threatening text messages or emails.
- Personal online information: Publishing online someone's private, personal or embarrassing information without permission, or spreading rumours online.
- Identity theft: Assuming someone's identity online and negatively representing them in a way that damages their reputation or relationships.
- Hate sites: Creating hate sites or implementing social exclusion campaigns on social networking sites.

It is also cyberbullying when a student, or students, uses technology to run a multi-step campaign to bully another student. For example, setting another student up to be assaulted, video-recording their humiliation, posting the video-recording online and then sending the website address to others.

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Advice and safety

Our School has resources to help students, parents and schools to deal with cyberbullying.

- A range of cyberbullying advice sheets explain how to deal with cyberbullying and to learn about cyber safety, can be arranged from the Department of Education and Training.
- ICT subjects and Multi Purpose Period will cover Cyber Bullying as part of the curriculum
  Promotional materials about cyberbullying prevention will be displayed around the school
- To report cyberbullying or illegal material, or to investigate online safety information available through the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner, see Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner.
- The school's Response to Reporting Bullying at Trafalgar High School (2019) to be followed by staff. This Response to Intervention model to be made available to students and parents/caregivers.

Implementation:

- Parents, teachers, students and the community to be made aware of types of cyber bullying, and its legal and hurtful ramifications. Teachers will be regularly reminded of their duty of care regarding protection of students from all forms of bullying.
- Cyberbullying may be reported at any time to any adult in the school community and will be referred to relevant staff of management for action
- Safe and responsible behaviour is explicitly taught at our school and parents/carers are requested to reinforce this behaviour at home. Parents can view the Cybersafe programs at https://esafety.gov.au/?from=cybersmart

References:
http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/bullying.aspx

http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/advicecyberbully.aspx

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

Policy last reviewed	September 2023
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	September 2026

Trafalgar High School

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This policy was ratified at the School Council Meeting held at Trafalgar High School;
Date: 13/09/2023
Scheduled for review in: 3 years

Signed: ……………………………   Signed: ……………………………………
School Council President   Principal
Holly Perriam   Brett Pedlow