



Derryooper National School Policies

Roll Number: 17547R

Patron: Most Rev. Michael Duignan, Bishop of Clonfert

Chairperson: Fr. Kieran O'Rourke P.P.

Phone: 0860483344

Principal: Padraig Lohan

Derryooper National School Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy

1. Introduction

Derryooper National School aims to ensure that all students feel safe, respected, and protected from bullying, harassment, and discrimination in any form, including cyberbullying. This policy has been formulated by the **Principal and staff**, in consultation with the **Board of Management**, to address the growing concerns regarding online safety and cyberbullying.

The school is committed to educating students on the **responsible use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**, promoting digital citizenship, and ensuring that pupils develop skills to use technology in a positive and safe manner. The school recognises that **parents/guardians have a responsibility to monitor their children's social media activity**, as **pupils are not allowed to use mobile phones during school hours**.

This policy aligns with **national anti-bullying legislation and guidelines**, including:

- *Education (Welfare) Act 2000*
- *Children First Act 2015*
- *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (2013)*
- *Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR Compliance)*
- *Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 (Coco's Law)*
- *Online Safety and Media Regulation Act 2022*

2. What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is the use of **electronic communication technologies** to harass, intimidate, or cause harm to another person. Unlike traditional bullying, it can occur **24/7, across multiple platforms, and involve a wider audience**.

Types of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying can take various forms, including but not limited to:

1. **Text or social media messages** – Sending threatening, abusive, or harmful messages.
2. **Sharing private images or videos without consent** – Engaging in **non-consensual image sharing**, a criminal offence under *Coco's Law*.
3. **Fake profiles and impersonation** – Using someone else's identity to spread false information.
4. **Online harassment** – Sending repeated offensive or harmful messages.
5. **Trolling** – Posting inflammatory comments to provoke a reaction.
6. **Exclusion** – Deliberately excluding someone from an online group or chat.
7. **Doxxing** – Publishing personal details online without permission.
8. **Sexting** – Sending sexually explicit messages or images.
9. **Fraping** – Gaining unauthorised access to someone's social media account and posting harmful content.
10. **Griefing** – Deliberate online harassment in gaming environments.

Cyberbullying can impact **students, teachers, and school staff**, and must be addressed **immediately**.

3. Prevention Strategies

To prevent and combat cyberbullying, **Derryooper National School** implements the following strategies:

Education & Awareness

- Cyberbullying awareness is integrated into the **Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum**.
- Digital safety workshops and talks from **Webwise Ireland and An Garda Síochána**.
- Annual **Anti-Bullying and Internet Safety Week** events.
- Parent information sessions on **managing children's online behaviour**.

Supervision & ICT Policies

- **No mobile phones are permitted during school hours**.
- The school implements an **Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)** for internet usage.
- School computers are monitored, and filtering software is used.

Staff Training & Professional Development

- Ongoing **training for teachers** on recognising and handling cyberbullying incidents.
- Dedicated **school counsellors and pastoral care team** to support affected students.

4. Reporting & Response Procedures

How to Report Cyberbullying

If a student experiences cyberbullying, they should:

- **Tell a teacher, parent, or school counsellor immediately.**

- **Take screenshots** of the bullying messages or content.
- **Avoid responding to online harassment.**
- **Report offensive content** to the relevant social media platform.

School Response

1. **Investigation** – The school will investigate all reported incidents confidentially.
2. **Parental Involvement** – Parents/guardians of all parties involved will be informed.
3. **Consequences for Cyberbullying:**
 - Verbal or written warnings for minor incidents.
 - Suspension for repeated or serious cyberbullying.
 - Referral to **An Garda Síochána** for cases involving criminal activity.
4. **Follow-up Support** – Counselling and mediation provided where necessary.

5. Responsibilities of Parents & Guardians

- **Monitor children’s online activity** and **implement parental controls.**
- **Discuss online safety regularly.**
- **Encourage responsible digital behaviour.**
- **Report cyberbullying incidents** to the school.

6. Policy Review & Compliance

This **Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy** will be reviewed **annually** by the **Board of Management**, in consultation with **students, staff, and parents**, to ensure that it remains **current, effective, and aligned with Irish law.**

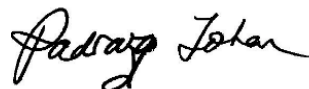
7. Approval & Signature Page

This **Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy** has been prepared by the **Principal** and approved by the **Board of Management.**

Signed:

Chairperson, Board of Management: _____

Principal, Derryoover National School:



Date:

19 February 2025