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**Golden National School**

Golden, Cashel, Co. Tipperary.

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**Anti-Cyber-Bullying Policy**

Golden National School aims to ensure that children are safe and feel safe from bullying, harassment and discrimination. This school is committed to teaching children the knowledge and skills to be able to use ICT effectively, safely and responsibly. Golden National School strongly reminds parents that it is ultimately their responsibility to monitor their child’s online activity.

**Understanding Cyber-Bullying:**

* Cyber bullying is the use of ICT (usually a mobile phone and or the internet) to abuse another person
* It can take place anywhere and involve many people
* Anybody can be targeted including pupils and school staff
* It can include threats, intimidation, harassment, cyber-stalking, vilification, defamation, exclusion, peer rejection, impersonation, unauthorized publication of private information or images etc.

**Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools, September 2013,** states:

*2.1.3. In addition, in the context of these procedures placing a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.*

**What is Cyber-Bullying?**

There are many types of cyber-bullying. The more common types are:

1. **Text messages** – can be threatening or cause discomfort.
2. **Picture/video-clips via mobile phone cameras** – images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed
3. **Mobile phone calls** – silent calls, abusive messages or stealing the victim‛s phone and using it to harass others, to make them believe the victim is responsible
4. **Emails** – threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else‛s name
5. **Instant messaging (IM)** – unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real-time conversations online using What’s App, Snapchat and Viber
6. **Bullying via websites** – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal ‘own web space’ sites such as You Tube, Facebook and Instagram although there are others.

**Aims of Policy:**

* To ensure that pupils, staff and parents understand what cyber bullying is and how it can be combated
* To ensure that practices and procedures are agreed to prevent incidents of cyber-bullying
* To ensure that reported incidents of cyber bullying are dealt with effectively and quickly.

**Procedures to prevent Cyber-Bullying:**

* Staff, pupils, parents and Board of Management (BoM) will be made aware of issues surrounding cyber bullying through the use of appropriate awareness-raising exercises
* Pupils will learn about cyber bullying through Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), assemblies, and other curriculum projects
* The school will engage a speaker to facilitate a workshop on cyber bullying for 5th and 6th classes on a regular basis. Classes 1st to 6th will participate in the ‘Webwise’ programme.
* Staff CPD (Continuous Professional Development) will assist in learning about current technologies
* Parents will be provided with information and advice on how to combat cyber bullying by being directed to the useful websites below.
* Pupils and parents will be urged to report all incidents of cyber bullying to the school.
* A letter will be sent to parents of 5th and 6th class stating that the school advises that students should not be on social media and that all online activity should be monitored closely.
* All reports of cyber bullying will be investigated, recorded, stored in the Principal’s

office and monitored regularly

* Procedures in our school Anti-bullying Policy shall apply
* The police will be contacted in cases of actual or suspected illegal content
* This policy will be reviewed every three years.

 **Useful Websites**

[www.spunout.ie](http://www.spunout.ie)

[www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie)

[www.childline.ie](http://www.childline.ie)

[www.sticksandstones.ie](http://www.sticksandstones.ie)

**Implementation date**

This policy will be implemented from September 2019

**Timetable for review**

The policy will be reviewed in 3 years or if necessary, amended in line with changes in Policies or Guidelines from the relevant authorities.