



Dubai Heights Academy Policies, Procedures and Guidance

Cyberbullying Policy

Agreed: March 2020

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Signed (Principal):

Date:

Cyberbullying Policy

Dubai Heights Academy encourages the appropriate use of technology and values the importance of integrating technology into the educational experience offered to all its students. However, the school is mindful of the potential for cyberbullying to occur. Dubai Heights Academy is aware that where there is a cross-over between home and school we have a responsibility to support children and families appropriately.

Definition of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/herself. By cyberbullying, we mean bullying by electronic media:

- Bullying by texts, messages or calls on mobile phones.
- The use of mobile phone cameras to cause distress, fear or humiliation.
- Posting threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating material on websites, to include blogs, personal websites, social networking sites.
- Using e-mail to message others.
- Hijacking/cloning e-mail accounts.
- Making threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating remarks in chat rooms, to include Facebook, Youtube and Snapchat.

Cyberbullying has unique concerns in that it can be:

Persistent – Digital devices offer an ability to immediately and continuously communicate 24 hours a day, so it can be difficult for children experiencing cyberbullying to find relief.

Permanent – Most information communicated electronically is permanent and public, if not reported and removed. A negative online reputation, including for those who bully, can impact college admissions, employment, and other areas of life.

Hard to Notice – Because teachers and parents may not overhear or see cyberbullying taking place, it is harder to recognize.

Legal issues

Cyber-bullying is generally criminal in character. The law applies to cyberspace:

- It is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information in any media including internet sites.
- The UAE Cybercrime Law No. 5 of 2012, issued by President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan in 2012 states guidelines for the misuse of technology.

Dubai Heights Academy educates its students both in the proper use of telecommunications and about the serious consequences of cyber-bullying and will, through PSHCE, Computing lessons, visitors and assemblies, and continues to inform and educate its parents and students.

Our Role

Dubai Heights Academy endeavours to block access to inappropriate web sites, using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems.

- All bullying is damaging but cyber-bullying and harassment can be an invasion of privacy. These acts may also be criminal acts.
- Dubai Heights Academy supports victims and, when necessary, will work with the Police to detect those involved in criminal acts.
- Dubai Heights Academy will use, as appropriate, the full range of sanctions for children who bully fellow children or harass staff in this way, both in or out of school.
- Dubai Heights Academy will confiscate where necessary to prevent students from committing crimes or misusing equipment at school.
- All members of the Dubai Heights Academy community are aware they have a duty to bring to the attention of the senior leadership team any example of cyber-bullying or harassment that they know about or suspect.

Sanctions

If cyberbullying takes place in school, this will be dealt with in the same way as any other form of bullying in line with the school's behaviour policy.

Guidance for teachers

If you suspect or are told about a cyberbullying incident, follow the protocol outlined below:

- Ask the student to show you the concerned device
- Go with the student and see the appropriate member of the senior leadership team
- Note clearly everything on the screen relating to an inappropriate text message or image, to include the date, time and names.
- Make a transcript of a spoken message, again record date, times and names.
- Print off the offending material straight away.
- Make sure you have got all pages in the right order and that there are no omissions.
- Normal procedures to interview students and to take statements will then be followed particularly if a child protection issue is presented.
- The senior leadership team will use the attached checklist for dealing with incidents of Bullying.

Guidance for children

- If you believe you or someone else is the victim of cyberbullying, you must speak to an adult as soon as possible. This person could be a parent/guardian, your teacher or a member of the senior leadership team
- Do not answer abusive messages but log and report them.
- Do not delete anything until it has been shown to someone.
- Never reply to abusive e-mails.
- Never reply to someone you do not know.
- Stay in public areas in chat rooms.

Guidance for Parents

It is vital that parents and the school work together to ensure that all students are aware of the serious consequences of getting involved in anything that might be seen to be cyber-bullying. Parents should:

- Always be aware of the sites their child is accessing and limit internet time.
- Explain to their children the importance of staying safe on the internet.
- Explain to their children legal issues relating to cyberbullying.
- Speak to one of the members of the senior leadership team or Child Protection Officer straight away about any concerns.

This site offers helpful advice to parents, particularly with respect to how they can best monitor their child's use of the computer at home:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444865/Advice_for_parents_on_cyber_bullying.pdf