CLYDE PRIMARY SCHOOL
CYBER BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY

Rationale:

Clyde Primary School recognises student wellbeing and safety are essential for academic and social development. All students should be able to learn and develop in safe, supportive and respectful environments. While advances in technology have created opportunities to engage students in the classroom in new and exciting ways they also present an opportunity to be both intentionally and unintentionally misused. As cyber bullying can be very destructive, the whole school community has a responsibility to provide safe online environments and to teach children how to use technology in positive and productive ways.

Definition of cyber bullying
Bullying that is carried out through an internet service, such as email, chat room, discussion group or instant messaging or through mobile phone technologies such as short messaging service (SMS) is cyber bullying. Cyber bullying is usually conducted on several occasions from one individual to another or from a group of people to another group of people. Although cyber bullying is considered to happen several times before it is considered bullying, Clyde Primary School will respond to and investigate initial reports of cyber bullying immediately. Children and young people can also be affected by hostile behaviour that does not fit the definition of cyber bullying. For example, a one-off insensitive remark or joke online or via text is not cyber bullying by definition. However, the impact can still be widespread due to the rapid spread of the content and the relative permanency of the message sent.

While cyber bullying is similar to face-to-face bullying, it also differs in the following ways:
- it can give the person doing the bullying a sense of being anonymous, so they may behave in ways they wouldn't offline
- it can occur 24/7 and be difficult to escape
- it is invasive, impacting students' social worlds at school and home, online and offline
- it can have a large audience—readily shared with groups or posted on public forum it is very difficult to delete bullying comments and images.

Examples of cyber bullying

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 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.
Harassment	Repeatedly sending malicious messages to someone online
Flaming	Online fights usually through emails, instant messaging or chat rooms where angry and rude comments are exchanged
Outing	Sharing secrets about someone online including private information, pictures, and videos
Trickery	Tricking someone into revealing personal information then sharing it with others
Cyberstalking	Continuously harassing and denigrating including threats of physical harm.
Other types	It is also cyber bullying 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 videorecording online and then sending the website address to others

Aims:

1. To inform the school community that cyber bullying is illegal and will not be tolerated at any level; serious consequences exist for students who choose to bully others in this manner.
2. To raise awareness of the signs and evidence of cyber bullying.
3. To inform everyone in the school community of their responsibility to report cyber bullying to staff, whether as an observer or victim.
4. To ensure that all reported incidents of cyber bullying are investigated immediately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
5. To seek parental and peer-group support and co-operation at all times.
6. To educate students about safe, responsible and ethical online behaviours.
7. To evaluate the impact of prevention strategies.

Department Policy:

Principals and teachers have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to protect students from any harm that should have reasonably been foreseen, including those that may be encountered within the online learning environment.

Related school policies:
Anti- Bullying   Student Engagement and Inclusion
Safe Internet Use   Mobile Phones
Child Safe

Implementation:

1. **Responsibilities -** Teachers, students, parents will be made aware of the school's position on cyber bullying.
a. **The staff at Clyde Primary School** has the responsibility to ensure that:
   o all forms of cyber bullying are prohibited
   o staff are aware of cyber bullying and are able to identify and look for signs of occurrence among the students
   o students are educated about safe and responsible use of digital technologies
   o students are supervised when using digital technologies for educational purposes
   o students are aware of the consequences of cyber bullying
   o a code of conduct is in use for technology, including computers and mobile phones, whilst on the school premises.
   o safe behaviour with regard to preventing cyber bullying e.g. privacy with regard to logging-in and passwords is regularly reinforced with children
   o all cases of cyber bullying are reported to the school leaders and responded to promptly.

b. **Students at Clyde Primary School have a responsibility to ensure that they:**
   o do not participate in cyber bullying
   o do not use mobile phones, cameras or other digital devices to record audio and visual material that is not authorised as part of the school curriculum program
   o do not breach the privacy of students, staff and members of the school community through any unauthorised recording or filming
   o do not disseminate inappropriate information through digital media or other means
   o report incidents of cyber bullying to a member of staff
   o advise students being victimised by cyber bullying to talk to an adult
   o offer to speak to an adult on behalf of the student who is being victimised by cyber bullying.

c. **Parents and carers have a responsibility to ensure that they:**

- o monitor their children's computer activity to identify potential problems
- o are alert to signs and evidence of cyber bullying
- o contact the school if they become aware of any problems
- o reinforce with children safe behaviour with regard to privacy with regard to logging-in & passwords
- o save emails, messages, screenshots, images etc., that could be used as evidence to support cyber-bullying claims
- o support the school by taking similar action at home to reinforce the unacceptability of cyber bullying.

2. Strategies for the Prevention of Cyber-bullying:
1. Ensuring that all cases of cyber bullying are reported and responded to promptly. Any confirmed cases of cyber bullying will result in contact being made with home via a letter and a phone call informing parents of the situation
2. Ensuring there is effective supervision of technology for monitoring and deterring cyber bullying
3. Blocking access to social media sites at school
4. Displaying posters/anchor charts informing children of their responsibilities when using technologies
5. Educating children of safe, responsible and ethical use of digital technologies (see resources on page 4)
6. Enforcing the school's mobile phone policy
7. Communicating policies to the whole school community through a variety of mediums.

3. Intervention strategies:
1. Once identified each involved party will be spoken with, and all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented
2. Parents will be contacted if their child is alleged to have been bullied or experienced inappropriate behaviour, or if their child appears to have behaved inappropriately or bullied someone else
3. Where possible, printed evidence of the incident will be collected and provided to the parents of the person doing the harm.
4. All cases will be dealt with on an individual basis. The school Principal will be responsible for deciding what disciplinary actions will be taken against students who engage in cyber bullying.
5. Appropriate and proportional consequences may include a verbal apology, writing a letter of remorse, attending restorative practice meeting, loss of privileges. Loss of privileges may include removal from access to the school's network and computers for a period of time or a ban on bringing a mobile phone to school for a period of time
6. Identified cyber bullies will receive ongoing monitoring and support structures will be provided as necessary
7. The school will reinforce with children the importance of appropriately reporting incidents of inappropriate behaviour involving themselves or others, and the imperative that staff respond appropriately and proportionally to each allegation consistent with the school's Student Code of Conduct
8. Consequences of repetitive or serious incidents may include criminal charges, suspension, expulsion, further loss of privileges, counselling, conciliation or any other consequences consistent with the school's Student Code of Conduct.

4. Steps to help the victim of cyber bullying:
1. Appointment of an agreed contact staff member for ongoing monitoring
2. Follow up meetings for ongoing communication with parents
3. Options for psychological support including school counselling or private counselling through the Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800, or the eSafety Website.
4. An offer of mediation with the perpetrator if the incident involves children from the same school
5. An offer of assistance by referring the victim to the www.esafety.gov.au website recommended by the Department of Education and run by the Australian Government.

Resources:

For a range of **advice sheets** to deal with cyberbullying and to learn about cyber safety, see:
Bully stoppers Cyberbullying Advice Sheets or Cybersafety Advice Sheets

If you're a **student** you can find information about cyber-safety at Bully stopper Students and Cybersafety

If you're a **teacher** and you want to find out how to teach your students to be cyber-safe, see: Bully stoppers Classrooms and Cybersafety

Principals can also learn what they can do by checking out Bully stoppers Schools and Cybersafety

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

Endorsement:

Ratified by School Council on …..	26 / 03/ 2018
Due for review…	2021