Online Conduct

The way in which pupils relate to one another online can have a significant impact on the culture of any school. The same standards of behaviour are expected online as apply offline. Everyone should be treated with kindness, respect and dignity. Parents are responsible for overseeing their child's online behaviours. Archbishop Benson will put in place both support (e.g. preventative education) as well as consequences (in line with our Positive Behaviour for Learning Policy) when the child's behaviour online causes a threat or causes harm to another pupil, and/or could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school, when the pupil is identifiable as a member of the school or if the behaviour could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Preventing online/cyber-bullying

Preventing cyberbullying is not easy. Because of the fact it happens on the internet and mostly out-of-school, it is difficult to police. However, we recognise that the best way to prevent it is to treat it as a whole school community issue

1. First and foremost, we promote our school value of fellowship as being central to creating a positive and supportive atmosphere in the school where cyberbullying cannot thrive.
2. We teach our pupils about their rights and responsibilities online and make sure they are aware that the internet is not a private place e.g. KS1 & KS2 S.M.A.R.T. rules
3. We are proactive in promoting the positive use of technology, discuss and we inform our pupils about good netiquette and personal safety issues e.g. Click with Kindness campaign, annual Safer Internet Day (SID)
4. We ensure that all our pupils know that, no matter what its form, all bullying is wrong and will not be tolerated. As part of efforts to deal with the issue, we will continue to promote awareness of our Pupil Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and our tiered consequences overview which will be applied in cases of ICT misuse.
5. We encourage and support a "telling" atmosphere – so that pupils will naturally report cyberbullying where they see it. Cyberbullying can be reported by our children in a variety of ways e.g. using their individual mood pebble, the class worry monster, speaking to a peer and/or speaking to a trusted adult, using circle time.

Responding to cyberbullying

Guidelines: We maintain a clear-anti-bullying stance in all our related policies e.g. our Behaviour for Learning Policy, our Anti-Bullying Policy.

Support: We provide the person being bullied with support and reassurance. We assure them that they did the right thing by telling. We encourage and signpost the child to get a combination of help from their parents, their peers, the teachers/headteacher/trusted adult, the welfare team and external organisations e.g. Childline. We help the child who has experienced harm to increase the strength of their friendships and relationships to reduce the feeling of isolation that is often experienced

Evidence: We help the child/family to keep relevant evidence for any potential investigation. This can be done by taking screenshots, printing web pages, keeping text messages or keeping a record of incidents

Investigation: Any cyberbullying claim is investigated fully. Cyberbullying robs people of their sense of control; by including the child who has experienced harm in the process of resolving the issue can help them regain that control. If the children/person who is causing harm is known to the school, then we ask them to remove offending remarks or posts. All records are kept as part of the investigation.

Inform: We give the child/family advice for how to reduce the chance of this abuse/bullying happening again. This can include changing passwords, contact details, blocking profiles on social networking sites or reporting abuse online

No Retaliation: We support the child/family, so that he/she does not retaliate or reply to any bullying messages/content.

Report: We help the child/family to report any abuse/bullying to the social networking sites and/or mobile phone service providers. We report hate crimes to the Local Authority.

Privacy: We encourage and signpost the child/family on how best to keep personal information private on the internet.

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying and can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click. The Education Act 2011 amended the power in the Education Act 1996 to provide that when an electronic device, such as a mobile phone, has been seized by a member of staff who has been formally authorised by the headteacher, that staff member can examine data or files, and delete these, where there is good reason to do so. This power applies to all schools and there is no need to have parental consent to search through a young person's mobile phone.
DfE Preventing & Tackling Bullying Advice to Schools 2017