

CYBERBULLYING POLICY

- **Approved By: Principal / CEO – K. George Mathew**
- **Date Approved: April 2025**
- **Date of Review: April 2027**

All staff at GEMS United Indian School, Abu Dhabi ensure that every child matters in the GUIIS community so that all pupils:

- Stay healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy learning
- Achieving economic wellbeing
- Make positive contributions

Cyberbullying may be defined as the use of electronic communication, particularly mobile phones and the internet, to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.

Children and adults may be reluctant to admit to being the victims of cyberbullying. It can take a number of different forms like

1. Threats and intimidation
2. Harassment or 'cyber-stalking' (Example: repeatedly sending unwanted texts or instant messages),
3. Sexting (Example: sending and receiving sexually explicit messages, primarily between mobile phones)
4. Unauthorized publication of private information/images and trolling (abusing the internet to provoke or offend others online).
5. Face-to-face bullying, with technology providing the bully with another route to harass their target.
6. Chat room bullying involves sending menacing or upsetting responses to children when they are in a virtual classroom.

Cyberbullying and the Law:

Bullying is never acceptable, and the school fully recognizes its duty to protect all its members to provide a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

Use of Technology: All staff and students of the school community are expected to take responsibility for using technology positively.

Preventing Cyberbullying As with all forms of bullying the best way to deal with cyberbullying is to prevent it happening in the first place. There is no single solution to the problem of cyberbullying, but the school will do the minimum to impose a comprehensive and effective prevention strategy.

Parent expectations:

- Keep the computer or other electronic devices in a public place in the house. Periodically check what your child is doing.
- Discuss the kinds of Internet activities your child enjoys.
- Be up front with your child that you will periodically investigate the files on the computer, the browser history files, and your child's public online activities.
- Search for your child's name online, look at his or her profiles and postings on teen community sites, review web pages or blogs.
- Tell your child that you may review his or her private communication activities if you have reason to believe you will find unsafe or irresponsible behavior.
- Watch out for secretive behavior as you approach your child when they are online, such as rapidly switching screens, changing passwords and for attempts to hide online behavior, such as an empty history file.
- Engage with them about their online experiences and specifically monitor for instances of cyberbullying.

Make sure they know that you are not judging them but rather wanting to engage in dialogue with them about their experiences.

Student expectations:

- If you are being bullied, remember bullying is never your fault. It can be stopped and can be usually traced.
- Do not ignore the bullying. Tell someone you trust, such as a teacher or parent, or call an advice line.
- Try to keep calm. If you are frightened, try to show it as little as possible. Do not get angry, it will only make the person bullying you more likely to continue.

Reporting:

All students are encouraged to report any suspicions of cyberbullying to Vice principal Safeguarding lead and head of sections and have access to the school counsellor. Support is offered to victims of cyberbullying including emotional support and reassurance. School will take the responsibility for investigating and managing the incident.

Investigation procedures will be followed in line with the school Anti Bullying Policy.

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed biennially or earlier if required by updates in legislation or school policy.