This policy was ratified by : <u>Fr. Michael Kennedy</u>   Date: <u>29/4/13</u>

Reviewed by : <u>Fr. Michael Kennedy</u>   Date: <u>31/3/14</u>

Reviewed by: <u>Breda Hickey</u>   Date: <u>5/12/16</u>

Reviewed by: <u>Breda Hickey</u>   Date: <u>1/4/19</u>

Reviewed by: <u>Breda Hickey</u>   Date: <u>10/2/20</u>

To be reviewed annually in conjunction with the Anti-Bullying Policy

Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy

Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, New Inn 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.

1

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. Also included here is
   'Bluejacking' (the sending of anonymous text messages over short distances using
   bluetooth wireless technology)
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. **Chat room bullying** – menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room
6. **Instant messaging (IM)** – unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real-time conversations online using MSM (Microsoft Messenger), Yahoo Chat or similar tools
7. **Bullying via websites** – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal 'own web space' sites such as You Tube, Facebook, tiktok, snapchat and whatsapp.

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.

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 to prevent Cyber bullying:

1. Staff, pupils, parents and Board of Management (BoM) are to be made aware of issues surrounding cyber bullying
2. Pupils and parents will be urged to report all incidents of cyber bullying to the school
3. Staff CPD (Continuous Professional Development) will assist in learning about current technologies
4. Pupils will learn about cyber bullying through Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), class discussions and across other curriculum areas.
5. Pupils will only be allowed supervised access to the internet.
6. Filters which restrict access to unsuitable material on the internet are in place.
7. The use of mobile phones by pupils is prohibited on school premises during school hours.
8. Parents will be provided with information and advice on how to combat cyber bullying
9. Staff will review and revise this policy and school procedure

in conjunction with the Anti-Bulling Policy

10. All reports of cyber bullying will be investigated, recorded, stored in the office and monitored regularly
11. The school will engage a speaker to facilitate a workshop on cyber bullying for 5th and 6th classes.
12. Procedures in our school Anti-bullying Policy shall apply
13. The police will be contacted in cases of actual or suspected illegal content

Information for Pupils

If you're being bullied by phone or the Internet:

- Remember, bullying is never your fault. It can be stopped and it can usually be traced.
- Don't 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. Don't get angry, it will only make the person bullying you more likely to continue.
- Don't give out your personal details online – if you're in a chat room, watch what you say about where you live, the school you go to, your email address etc. All these things can help someone who wants to harm you to build up a picture about you.
- Keep and save any bullying emails, text messages or images. Then you can show them to a parent or teacher as evidence.
- If you can, make a note of the time and date bullying messages or images were sent, and note any details about the sender
- There's plenty of online advice on how to react to cyber bullying. For example,
  Ie.reachout.com and www.wiredsafety.org have some useful tips and www.webwise.ie

Text/video messaging

- You can easily stop receiving text messages for a while by turning-off incoming messages for a couple of days. This might stop the person texting you by making them believe you've changed your phone number
- If the bullying persists, you can change your phone number. Ask your mobile service provider about this.
- Don't reply to abusive or worrying text or video messages. Your mobile service provider will have a number for you to ring or text to report phone bullying
- Visit their website for details.
- Don't delete messages from cyber bullies. You don't have to read them, but you should keep them as evidence.

Useful Websites

www.webwise.ie
Webwise is an internet safety initiative focused on raising awareness of online safety issues and good practice among students, their parents and teachers.

www.spunout.ie   www.childnet.int.org

www.antibullying.net
        www.kidsmart.org.uk/beingsmart

www.bbc.co.uk./schools/bullying

www.childline.ie/index.php/support/bullying/1395

www.chatdanger.com   http://ie.reachout.com

www.kidpower.org   www.sticksandstones.ie

www.abc.tcd.ie

www.webwise.ie

Compiled in consultation with teachers, SNAs, pupils and Board of Management.