Document Version Control

a. Initial document

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1. Policy Statement

Young students have embraced the use of information and communication technologies to maintain contact with friends and make new ones. They send emails, create blogs and wikis, send text messages and images via mobile phone and use discussion boards.
While most interactions are positive, there are increasing reports of these technologies being used to harass and intimidate others. This has become known as Cyberbullying.

2. Definition

Cyberbullying is commonly defined as the use of information and communication technologies to support repeated and deliberate hostile behavior intended to harm others.

It is sometimes used as an extension to other forms of bullying, and can result in the target of bullying experiencing social, psychological and academic difficulties.

3. Policy

Wiley Park Public School is committed to developing a safe environment where the students act respectfully and positively towards each other in acceptable and non-threatening ways.

Where incidents of cyberbullying are impacting on the learning of any student, Wiley Park Public School will respond to these incidents, even if they occur out of school hours or on private equipment. The appropriate response will depend on the circumstances of the cyberbullying.

The Police and the School Safety and Response Unit will be contacted if the incidents of cyberbullying include criminal behavior.

Staff at Wiley Public School have the responsibility to ensure that:

- All forms of cyberbullying are prohibited by maintaining a climate where bullying is less likely to take place and students feel comfortable reporting cyberbullying.
- They are aware of cyberbullying and are able to identify and look for signs of occurrence among the students.
- Students are aware of the consequences of cyberbullying. (code of conduct)
- All cases of cyberbullying are reported to the Assistant Principal/Principal and responded to promptly.

- There is supervision of technology that is effective for monitoring and deterring cyberbullying.
- They implement a sustained curriculum approach to address appropriate use of technology and bullying issues.
- They familiarise the students with the current cyberbullying resources. (staff share)
- Have frequent discussions focussing on the impact of cyberbullying during Peer Support, Child Protection and whole school assemblies.
- Articles addressing the dangers of cyberbullying appear in the newsletter.
- All members of the school community including casual staff are familiar with the school's anti-bullying plan.
- Involve community members to support education on cyber-bullying eg Police/Youth Liaison Officer.

Students at Wiley Park Public School have a responsibility to ensure that they:
- Do not participate in cyberbullying.
- Hand in mobile phones to the office before school and collect them at the end of the day.
- 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.
- Do not disseminate inappropriate information through digital media or other means.
- Advise students being victimised by cyberbullying to talk to an adult.
- Offer to speak to an adult on behalf of the student who is being victimised by cyberbullying.

How Students can protect themselves from cyberbullies
- Do not give anyone access to your passwords or provide people you do not trust with your phone number.
- Make sure you log in with the correct name and log out after use.
- Sign and abide by the school internet code of conduct.
- Do not open emails or read text messages from unidentified names or phone numbers.
- Adhere to age limits on all social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram.

What students are to do if they feel they are a victim of cyberbullying
- Do not respond
- Tell a parent, teacher, Assistant Principal, Deputy Principal, Principal,
- Save original evidence (emails etc.)

4. <u>Review</u>

This policy is to be reviewed annually.