

CYBER BEHAVIOUR

Cyber behaviour applies to all technology-based communication; including internet websites, personal blogs, instant messaging, chat rooms, online forums, text messaging, phone, mobile phone use and email.

It is a criminal offence to use emails, phone, mobile phone or the internet to threaten, harass or offend another person. If this occurs, you can report to Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Your personal safety is important and you need to be aware that people on the internet may not be who they say they are.

- Do not give out personal information e.g. address, passwords, usernames, phone number, photographs, how you get to College etc.
- Tell a parent or adult if someone sends or posts something that makes you uncomfortable.
- Take an adult with you if meeting an online friend for the first time and only meet in public places e.g. a café.

Cyber bullying involves the use of communication technologies to support the repeated, harmful and negative behaviour. It can include:

- Sending defamatory, threatening or harassing messages (email/phone/internet).
- Deliberately spreading inaccurate information e.g. rumours.
- Distributing someone else's personal information e.g. phone numbers, web addresses.
- Sending spam, viruses or offensive web links.
- Posting information, images or photos without the permission of the subject.

If you are cyber bullied

- Do not reply to threatening, harassing or obscene messages.
- Block the sender's messages or change your email, phone etc if necessary.
- Save any threatening or harassing messages and report them to your parents, the College, Internet Service Provider or the Police if appropriate.

Using social network sites

- Protect your accounts with 'strong' passwords and change them regularly e.g. mix cases and characters; e.g. sTRong3.
- Have a different password for each account so if one password is stolen not all of your accounts will be at risk.
- **Never share your password.**
- Set your online profile to private and be careful who you accept as a friend.
- Always log out of the site and don't use it as a screen saver.
- **Never click on suspicious links even if they are from friends.**

REMEMBER TO THINK BEFORE YOU POST ANYTHING.

- Anything posted online can be read, printed and used by others now, and in the future.
- Employers might check your online presence before deciding to hire you.
- Friendships change and private inbox messages can be copied or shared without your consent.
- Once photographs are posted they are owned by the site they have been posted on, so make sure they are not inappropriate and that you have permission from everyone in the photographs.
- Posting or sharing inappropriate/revealing pictures of yourself or friends can be extremely serious, not just embarrassing or hurtful to others but **ILLEGAL**.
- In the worst-case scenario, it can be regarded as the publication and/or distribution of child pornography.