CYBER BULLYING POLICY
& PROCEDURES

OBJECTIVE

This policy is to clarify the school's stand on students' who cyber-bully other students or staff at Millicent High School.

Staff at Millicent High School realise that students have access to modern technologies outside of the school environment and understand that students will want to utilise these technologies to access their social networks.

At Millicent High School we respect the right of all staff and students to utilise this form of social networking (eg Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Myspace, Twitter etc) but do not condone the use of inappropriate material linked to staff or students within the school.

Both staff and students have the right to feel safe and free from harassment via cyber-bullying.

Cyber Safety is important to all and refers to the safe use of the Internet and ICT equipment / devices, including mobile phones

WHAT IS CYBER-BULLYING?

Cyber-bullying is bullying which uses technology as a means of harassing others. It is the use of an Internet service or mobile technology – such as email, Facebook, chat rooms including snapchat), discussion groups, instant messaging, web pages or SMS (text messaging) etc - with the result of another person being harmed.

WHO DOES THE CYBER-BULLYING POLICY APPLY TO?

-   Students who are the 'authors' of cyber-bullying
-   Students who add cyber-bullying bulletins to their social networking.
-   Students who distribute material to other site users.

Each incidence of cyber-bullying will be addressed according to the nature of the bullying and the number of times cyber-bullying has occurred.

If students are victims of cyber-bullying or are aware of it occurring, it is important to save all evidence of bullying and report it to a staff member. It is useful to print out the page as evidence.

If an incident occurs, there will be contact with parents and or caregivers and the consequences resulting from the cyber-bullying will be determined by the Junior School Senior Leader, Senior School Senior Leader, Deputy Principal or Principal of Millicent High School. It may result in take home, external suspension and / or the police being involved.

HOW TO EDUCATE YOUR CHILD ON CYBER-BULLYING

Suggestions for Parents:

- Make sure your children understand how vast and public the Internet is. Remind them that anything they post or send in a message is virtually available to be seen or read by anyone in the world.
- Talk to your children about cyber-bullying. Make sure they understand what it is. Let them know that cyber-bullying is no less serious and unacceptable than other forms of bullying.
- Set up the family computer in an open, common area so that you can monitor what your child is sending and receiving.
- Inform your Internet Service Provider (ISP) or cell phone service provider of any abuse. Although it can take a lot of time and effort to get Providers to respond and deal with your complaints about cyber-bullying, it is necessary in order to try to stop it from re-occurring.
- Purchase software that can help track activity. There are parental controls that filter both IM and chat rooms.
- Encouraging students to be aware of, report and intervene when cyber-bullying occurs, will help to ease the escalation of this new form of abuse.

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT

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