



Cyberbullying policy

Chartwell International School

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Introduction

Chartwell International School recognises that digital technologies are an essential part of students' learning and everyday lives. The School is committed to promoting the safe, responsible, and respectful use of technology while fostering a positive digital culture across the school community.

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Cyberbullying can have a significant impact on a student's wellbeing, safety, and learning. The School is committed to preventing cyberbullying, responding promptly to concerns, and providing appropriate support to all students involved.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- promote the safe and responsible use of digital technologies;
- prevent incidents of cyberbullying within the school community;
- provide clear procedures for reporting and responding to concerns;
- support students affected by cyberbullying;
- educate students, staff, and parents about online safety and responsible digital behaviour.

What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying –definition

Cyberbullying is the use of digital technologies to intentionally harm, intimidate, threaten, harass, embarrass, or exclude another person. It may occur through social media platforms, messaging applications, emails, online games, websites, or any other digital communication platform.

Cyberbullying may include, but is not limited to:

- sending threatening or abusive messages;
- sharing embarrassing or private information or images without consent;
- impersonating another person online;
- deliberately excluding someone from online groups or activities;
- spreading rumours or false information through digital platforms.

Cyberbullying may occur on or off school premises where it affects the wellbeing, safety, or educational experience of members of the Chartwell community.

Preventing cyberbullying

Chartwell International School is committed to preventing cyberbullying by promoting the safe, responsible, and respectful use of technology.

The School supports this through:

- age-appropriate online safety education within the curriculum, including PSHE and ICT;
- assemblies, awareness initiatives, and wellbeing activities where appropriate;
- safeguarding training for staff, including recognising and responding to cyberbullying concerns;
- appropriate technological safeguards to support the safe use of digital resources; and
- regular review of relevant safeguarding and behaviour policies.

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Reporting Concerns

Students, staff, and parents are encouraged to report any concerns relating to cyberbullying as soon as possible.

Reports may be made to a teacher, Head of Campus, School Counsellor, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Wellbeing Director or another trusted member of staff.

All concerns will be taken seriously, recorded appropriately, and managed in accordance with the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy.

Responding to cyberbullying

Incidents of cyberbullying will be investigated promptly and managed in accordance with the School's Anti-Bullying Policy and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The School recognises that cyberbullying may:

- occur at any time and from any location;
- involve anonymous individuals;
- extend beyond the school environment while still affecting students' wellbeing and learning; and
- affect both students and members of staff.

Where appropriate, the School will work collaboratively with students, parents, and relevant staff to ensure that concerns are addressed promptly and appropriate support is provided.

Support for Students

The wellbeing and safety of the student affected will always be the School's priority.

Students who experience cyberbullying will be offered appropriate support, which may include:

- emotional support and reassurance;
- guidance on staying safe online;
- encouragement to preserve any available evidence where appropriate;
- support from relevant members of staff, including the School Counsellor where appropriate; and
- ongoing monitoring to help ensure the situation has been resolved.

The School will work collaboratively with parents or carers to safeguard the student's wellbeing and provide appropriate support.

Investigation

All reports of cyberbullying will be taken seriously and investigated promptly, fairly, and confidentially.

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The purpose of the School's investigation is to establish the facts necessary to determine an appropriate educational, safeguarding, and behavioural response. The School does not conduct criminal investigations, which remain the responsibility of the competent authorities.

As part of the investigation, the School may:

- gather and preserve relevant information and available evidence;
- meet with the students involved;
- involve parents or carers;
- assess whether the incident raises safeguarding concerns; and
- determine appropriate actions in accordance with the School's Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, and Safeguarding policies.

Where there are concerns that a student may be at risk of significant harm, or where the reported behaviour may constitute a criminal offence, the School will follow its safeguarding procedures and comply with its legal obligations under Chilean legislation. Where appropriate, families may be advised to make a formal report to the relevant authorities, if not the School will notify the competent authorities where required by law.

Outcomes and Consequences

Where cyberbullying is substantiated, appropriate educational and disciplinary measures will be implemented in accordance with the School's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies.

The School's response will seek to:

- protect and support the person affected;
- promote accountability and reflection;
- encourage respectful and responsible online behaviour;
- prevent further incidents; and
- provide educational and restorative opportunities where appropriate.

The School recognises that every incident is unique and will consider the nature, severity, and impact of the behaviour when determining an appropriate response.

Legal Framework

Chartwell International School manages incidents of cyberbullying in accordance with applicable Chilean legislation and the School's safeguarding and behaviour procedures.

Cyberbullying may constitute a breach of Chilean law where behaviour involves threats, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, the unlawful sharing of images or personal information, or other conduct that places a child or member of the school community at risk.

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Where appropriate, the School will work collaboratively with families and, when required by law or where there are concerns regarding the safety of a child, will notify or cooperate with the relevant authorities.

Related Policies

This policy should be read alongside the following School policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required by changes in legislation or school practice.

Reviewed August,2026.

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