



Cyber Bullying Policy

This policy is supported by the school's Behaviour and Code of Conduct policy, Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and procedures - KCSIE and the school's Online Safety and Cyber Policy, Anti-Bullying policy and AI Policy.

Cyberbullying is the use of ICT, particularly mobile phones, and the internet, deliberately used to upset someone. All suspicions should be reported on MyConcern, followed with a meeting with the DSL or School Directors. If there is an immediate danger, then the DSL and Directors should be spoken to without delay. Cyberbullying may involve: emotional harm, coercion or intimidation, discrimination or harassment, sexualised or harmful online behaviour. At LVBS all forms of bullying are taken seriously.

When and where?

Cyber bullying can take place at any time and can intrude into spaces that have previously been regarded as safe or personal. People who cyberbully may attempt to remain anonymous. This can be extremely distressing for those being bullied. The person cyber bullying may never be in the same physical space as their target. Some instances are known to be unintentional. Cyberbullying can be the result of not thinking (something sent as a joke may be deeply upsetting or offensive to the recipient) or a lack of awareness of the consequences - for example saying something negative.

Equality and Protected Characteristics

LVBS recognises that cyberbullying may be related to a person's appearance, health or disability, or home circumstances. Cyberbullying related to protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (including disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity) will be treated as a serious breach of school policy.

What should we as individuals do about it?

- Always respect others - be careful what you say online and what images you send.
- Think before you send - whatever you send can be made public very quickly and could stay online forever.
- Treat your password like your toothbrush - keep it to yourself. Only give your mobile number or personal website address to trusted friends.
- Block the bully - learn how to block or report someone who is behaving badly.
- Don't retaliate or reply!
- Save the evidence - learn how to keep records of offending messages, pictures or online conversations.
- Make sure you tell: an adult you trust, or call a helpline like ChildLine on 0800 1111 in confidence; the provider of the service; check the service.

- Finally, don't just stand there - if you see cyber bullying going on, support the victim and report the bullying.

What can we, as a school, do to help?

The school demonstrates a clear and effective approach to preventing and responding to cyberbullying, with robust safeguarding procedures, clear reporting mechanisms and strong alignment with statutory guidance. Staff must not investigate cyberbullying concerns independently. All concerns must be reported and managed through safeguarding procedures.

At LVBS we take a whole school approach. The 3 main areas we will act on are:

- Support the person being cyber bullied
- Investigate incidents
- Work with the cyber bully and implement sanctions

Reporting Concerns:

All suspicions or disclosures of cyberbullying must be:

- Logged on **MyConcern**
- Reported to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** or **Safeguarding Team**

If a child is at immediate risk of harm, the DSL or Safeguarding Team must be informed without delay.

Records will be retained in line with the School's safeguarding, confidentiality and data protection procedures. **London Vocational Ballet School recognises the differences between cyberbullying and other forms of bullying as:**

- It is the invasion of home and personal space and can be perpetuated at any time
- The audience can be large and reached rapidly
- People who cyber bully have a perception of anonymity
- Bystanders to cyber bullying can easily become perpetrators - for example, by passing on text messages

Some instances of cyber bullying are known to be unintentional (bullying is usually intentional) Many cyber bullying incidents can themselves create an electronic record that may act as evidence. Bullying can also be related to a young person's home circumstances, appearance, or health conditions.

At LVBS we acknowledge that bullying behaviour can and does occur anywhere and everywhere; in the home, within the community and in other settings and all members of the school community students, teachers and ancillary workers can all fall victim to bullying. Although bullying can occur between individuals, it can often take place in the presence (virtually or physically) of others who become the "bystanders" or "accessories".

In cyberbullying, bystanders can easily become perpetrators - by passing on or showing to others images designed to humiliate or taking part in online polls or discussion groups. Students may not recognise themselves as participating in bullying, but their involvement compounds the misery for the person targeted. They will be made aware that their actions can have severe and distressing consequences and that participating in such activity will not be tolerated.

Cyber Bullying and the Law

Education Law:

The school community has a duty to protect all its members and provide a safe, healthy environment. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) outlines legal powers which relate directly to cyber bullying. The EIA also provides a defence for school staff in confiscating items such as mobile phones from pupils. This policy is supported by KCSIE and the School's Behaviour Policy.

Civil and Criminal Law:

There are laws that apply to harassing or threatening behaviour or menacing and threatening communications. Some cyber bullying activities could be criminal offences under different laws:

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997

The Malicious Communications Act 1988

Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003

The Public Order Act 1986

Children's Wellbeing and School's Bill 2026

The School does not determine criminal guilt but will cooperate fully with external agencies where required.

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