

DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES BY SOCIAL ANIMATION (DISA)

POLICY ON RESPONSIBLE USE OF CYBER TECHNOLOGY AND PREVENTION FROM BULLYING



CYBER TECHNOLOGY:

Cyber Technology has provided access to vast resources of information and entertainment and the opportunity to communicate with people on a global level. Social networking sites such as Myspace, Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Online Chat Rooms and Instant Messaging (IM) allow individuals to connect with other users from around the world. The Students use the internet facility on campus under the direct supervision of the Teaching Faculty.

When children, young persons or adults do not feel connected and experience isolation and loneliness, their vulnerability may be heightened and they may be at risk of finding on-line contacts ready to exploit their loneliness and vulnerability. Social networking can become in such cases substitute for healthy social interaction.

We need to recognize that Cyber Technology, useful as it is, has its share of dangers and risks. Cyber Technology is being used increasingly to disseminate both adult and child pornography. Images transmitted across the internet, once downloaded / uploaded can be subsequently misused beyond one's knowledge or control. Misuse of electronic media can cause considerable harm and may indeed constitute a criminal offence.

Those persons working with children and young people have the responsibility to protect children and young people conscious of their educative role in the context of any cyber communication with children and young persons.

All personnel in our Institutions are expected to use cybercommunication responsibly. Internet child pornography is not a victimless offense. A person who views child pornography is tacitly supporting the sexual exploitation of children and is involved in criminal activity. To safeguard integrity and to preserve clarity of professional boundaries, all personnel are to use electronic and print media responsibly.

PREVENTION FROM BULLYING:

What is Bullying? It is any willful, conscious behaviour intended to hurt another person, either physically or emotionally through words or deeds. If the bullying tendency or attitude is not checked in time, it will develop into an interest towards ragging later on.

Bullying may take many forms and can include:

- Picking on others, gossiping, defaming.
- Making hurtful and racist comments.
- Any form of physical violence such as hitting, pushing or spitting.

- Making suggestive comments / gestures or other forms of sexual overtones.
- Forcing others to act against their will.
- Verbal threats of aggression against the person, property or possessions.
- Using words or actions that put-down or belittle others' abilities and achievements.
- Using offensive names, teasing or spreading rumours about others or their families.
- Act of vandalism or violence.
- Bragging about self while belittling others.

Bullying is a serious issue. Bullying is not acceptable. Do not tolerate bullying. It must be reported. A tradition of silence is a barrier to be broken down. All who associate with our Institutions shall feel that is not only our right to protect, but our responsibility to report bullying, whether it happens to you or to someone else.

Who are the Bullies?

Anyone can be a bully. We all have the capacity and, occasionally, the inclination to hurt others. Any person who aims in some way to hurt someone else by causing either physical or emotional pain is a bully. Some bullies do the hurting themselves, some are ringleaders and some are members of a group. Others unintentionally encourage bullies by being passive onlookers when bullying occurs - they fail to intervene or report instances of bullying. Often bullies justify their behaviour by saying they were only teasing another or having fun. If the person being teased does not like it, or want it, and yet others persist with it, then it is a clear case of bullying. It is cruel and unfair behaviour.

Why Bullying cannot be tolerated

As caring and concerned members of the Family, Institution and Society we:

- Expect discipline and high standard of behaviour at all times.
- Are committed to striving to provide a safe and caring environment for everyone, where the right of every person to be free from all forms of bullying is respected.
- Encourage and positively reinforce behaviour which is courteous and considerate.
- Have a policy for detecting, preventing and dealing with bullying.
- Educate our Members, Co-workers and Associates about issues related to bullying behaviour.
- Offer support to all victims through our compassionate attitude and caring outlook as educators and enable persons to grow up the same way.

9. What can you do if you are a witness to Bullying?

There is a risk that you can become the victim, or be labeled, but we need to work together if we are to be effective.

- 10.** You should be first of all caring enough to want to do something.
- 11.** If possible, you could intervene when bullying occurs by simply persuading him / her to stop it. This is very much possible if you have some influence over the bully, e.g. you are Coordinator, Facilitator, In-Charge, Senior, a Friend, a Team Captain, Leader etc.
- 12.** If you cannot act immediately, it is helpful to report the incident to your Supervisor / Head of the Institution as soon as you can. You may need to establish that you want privacy and confidentiality. Alternatively, you may wish to make an anonymous report

of the incident of bullying in order to prevent it for the future.

13. You can offer support and be a friend to the victim. Encourage the victim to get help through Staff, Family, Heads of Institutions etc.

What can you do if you are bullied?

As the victim, you are the one who should take action most strongly but carefully.

- Try not to retaliate by becoming a physical or verbal bully yourself.
- Try to ignore the bullying. If you show that you are not upset, the bully may stop.
- Tell the bully politely to stop it.
- Laugh it off, use humour.
- Don't be afraid to talk about it with your friends or family or authorities.
- Leave the area and go directly to a responsible adult.
- Talk to some Friends or Co-workers. They may help you decide how to handle the situation.
- Establish a friendship network.
- Be smart about avoiding high risk places and times.

There are many adults at work-places who want to help you too. They can help you decide how to handle the situation and they can take action.

Consequences

There must be clear consequences for bullying and, if a person is found to be bullying, then he / she could expect some of the following responses or "sanctions".

- Written records being kept in the person's file
- Stern warnings accompanied by a formal letter to the bully
- Legal action as per the requirements of law and court directives
- Consultation with parents
- Reparations for any damages caused
- Detentions and community service
- Referral to the Head of the Institution
- Counselling and behaviour modification programmes
- Exclusion from privileges
- Suspension from Institution, resuming only on the condition that a formal contract is signed undertaking to cease all bullying behaviour
- Expulsion when repeated corrective measures prove to be futile.

Those who bully or harass others are themselves in need of help. It is in fact a cry for attention and help. Help could be given by way of assistance with behaviour modification strategies, counselling and by providing clear directions and demarcating definite and clear boundaries.

Secretary

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